

MR. AND MRS. DISRAELI REC'D
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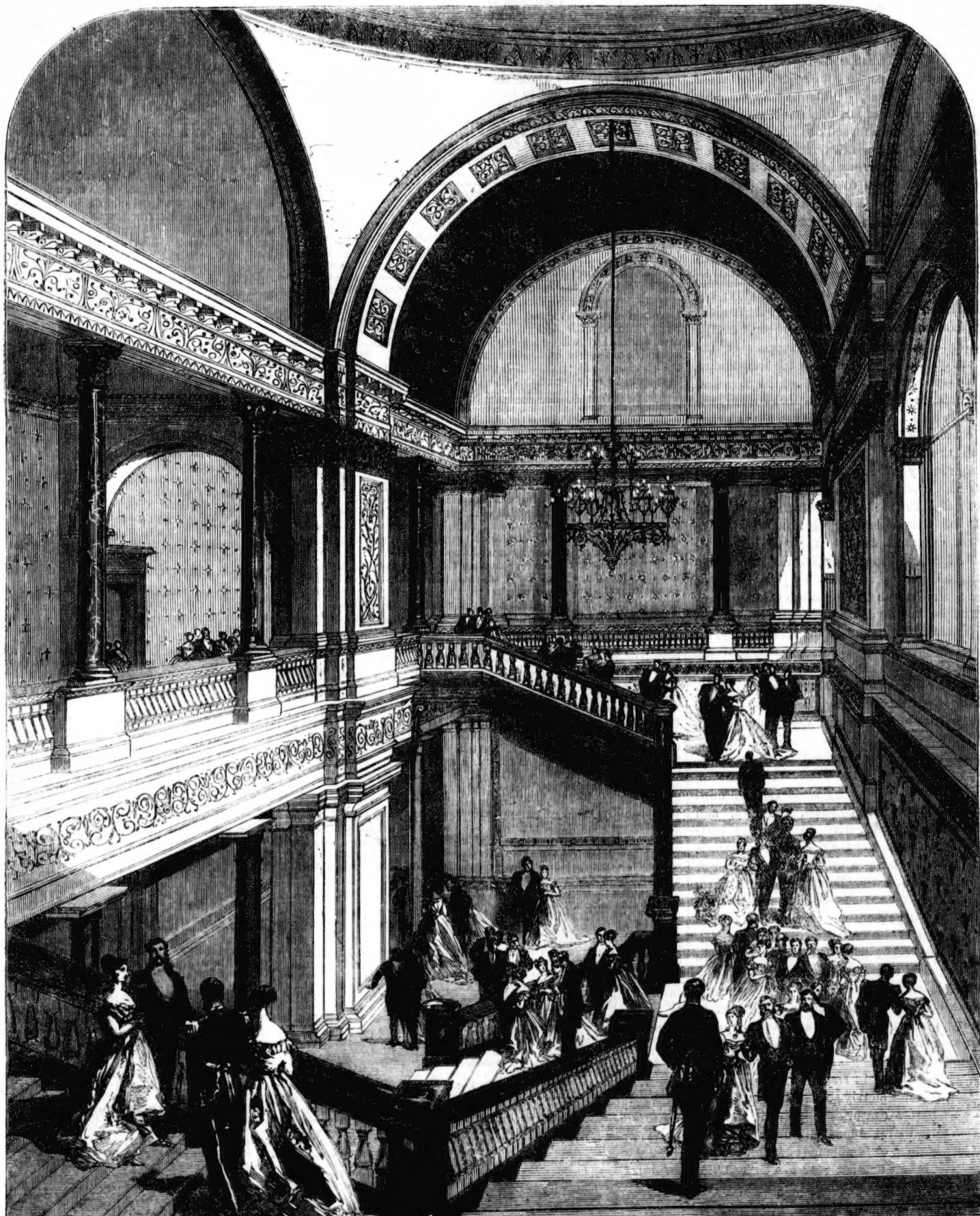
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THE RELIGIOUS QUESTION IN IRELAND.

THE Irish Church, on Monday night, was made the subject of a triangular duel. The three principal combatants were Mr. Gladstone, who opened the fight; Lord Stanley, who attacked Mr. Gladstone from the present Ministerial point of view; and Lord Cranborne, who attacked Lord Stanley from the point of view of an impossible and all but extinct Toryism. Between them they will bring down the Irish Church, which is the one great thing to be desired. Indeed, the only question to be considered now is, how shall it die and what shall be

done with its remains? No sort of death pleases it. Like the turkey who was asked with what sort of sauce it would like to be cooked, it would rather not be cooked at all. But Mr. Gladstone's speech, on Monday night, was really its funeral oration. Lord Stanley only asked, in effect, that it might be allowed to live a little longer; and if anything could diminish the chances—already very slight—of this respite being granted, it would be the uncompromising speech delivered by Lord Cranborne, who desires to prolong its life indefinitely.

The debate, adjourned from Monday to Tuesday and from Tuesday to Thursday, may perhaps last throughout the week. But, however many speeches may be made, the speakers can only repeat, with variations more or less important, the well-defined arguments employed the first night. There was, to be sure, one extreme point beyond the extreme line maintained by Lord Cranborne. There are, it appears, in the House of Commons, some staunch adherents to the letter of the Constitution who object to all interference with the Established Church in Ireland on the simple ground that it is



MR. AND MRS. DISRAELI'S RECEPTION AT THE NEW FOREIGN OFFICE: THE GRAND STAIRCASE.

established there. If it is established, it is established by law, and if by law, then by the Houses of Parliament, with the consent of her Majesty the Queen. Moreover, it is distinctly set forth in the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland that with the two countries the two Churches were united; and, if this be not enough, the Queen, in her Coronation Oath, has solemnly sworn to maintain "the laws of God, the true profession of the gospel, and the Protestant form of religion established by law." Lord Cranborne is not the man to argue that because a thing is, therefore it must be. His view is that we have to govern Ireland, and that we must do so in a great measure through that portion of the Irish population which is attached to Protestantism and to the English rule. He does not consider whether it is right or wrong in the abstract that a Protestant Church should be maintained by the State in a country which is for the most part Catholic. He simply says, as a practical politician, that if we do away with the Irish Establishment we shall alienate the sympathies of one third of the population without gaining the good will of the remaining two thirds who are already disaffected.

The several views held in connection with the question of the maintenance of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland may be thus briefly stated. There is—1, The view of the stolid politicians who would keep up the Establishment because it is established; 2, the view of the old Tories, who have no faith in the beneficial effect of just measures, merely because they are just, who know that we can hold Ireland as it is, and who believe we should lose it if we were to increase the power of the Irish Catholics while diminishing or altogether destroying the loyalty of Irish Protestants—which, they argue, would be the inevitable effect of abolishing the Establishment; 3, the view of Lord Stanley and the Government in general, who admit the existence of the Establishment in its present form to be a doubtful good, and perhaps an evil, but who want to know whether the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland is to be disestablished or disendowed, what is to be done with the revenues, and so on, and who, pending the solution of these secondary questions, would like to postpone the primary question altogether; 4, the view of Mr. Gladstone, who wishes the present Parliament to make a formal declaration that the Irish Establishment, having had a fair trial, and everything that can be said in its favour having been heard, has been condemned to death, the sentence to be submitted for confirmation to the first Parliament assembled under the new electoral law, to which the details of execution should also be left.

There is also a fifth view, which, though it may be worth indicating, is not worth serious consideration. We do not mean the Fenian view, which is not worth alluding to; but one which is really quite as absurd, and which would amount to Fenianism if consistently carried out. Mr. Baillie Cochrane, in delivering a feeble speech in support of the Irish Establishment, quoted a passage from the well-known Roman Catholic newspaper, the *Tablet*, in which it is said that, even if the Establishment was done away with, the Catholics of Ireland would never be satisfied as long as they saw the land, the commerce, and all the wealth and influence of the country in the hands of Protestants. We may admit that the supremacy of Protestantism in Ireland—a supremacy which, certainly, would not cease with the existence of the Protestant Establishment—is not the natural result of the superiority of Protestantism to Catholicism. Rich, educated Protestants have had lands given to them in Ireland, and Protestantism has, in politico-economical language, been "protected" by the State, so systematically and for so long a time, that the Catholic majority have hitherto really had no chance. As to the question of education, it was penal, until the end of the last century, for a Roman Catholic to keep a school; and forty years have not elapsed since Roman Catholics were excluded from all offices of State. But whether, as the people of Ulster would maintain, the Irish Protestants owe their position and influence to their natural superiority as men of English and Scotch origin, or whether they are indebted for it entirely to the preference which has hitherto been accorded to them in so flagrantly unjust a manner by the State, it is certain in any case that as they are so they must remain until the Catholics, under an equal political, religious, and educational system, can raise themselves to or above their level. We have no respect whatever for the opinions of those persons who, finding that there are an immense number of poor ignorant Irish professing the Roman Catholic faith, conclude, in a general way, that Catholicism is the religion of the impoverished and degraded masses, while the closest possible connection exists between Protestantism and enlightenment. But, on the other hand, we cannot entertain the slightest sympathy for those Irish Catholics—whether they be Irish revolutionists, Catholic bigots, or mere imbeciles—who argue that because the Protestant population in Ireland is generally prosperous, and the Catholic population generally the reverse, therefore something must be done to equalise, or, at least, assimilate, the positions of the two classes—for in Ireland Protestants and Catholics form classes, and not merely sects. It is quite true that the Catholics were for two centuries weighted in the race for power and wealth. But their burdens have been gradually removed; and the last burden, or semblance of a burden, will probably be taken away before another year has passed. It is a pity, no doubt, that this was not done long ago; but a just settlement is the most that any creditor can claim. If, after that has been obtained, the Irish Catholics still com-

plain that they are not so well off as their Protestant fellow-countrymen, their complaints will certainly find no echo on this side of the Irish Channel.

MRS. DISRAELI'S RECEPTION AT THE NEW FOREIGN OFFICE.

A BRILLIANT assemblage congregated, on the 25th ult., in the new Foreign Office wing of the public offices building, in Downing-street, to do honour to the Premier and Mrs. Disraeli. This was the first public reception Mrs. Disraeli had held since her recent illness, and it was attended by a numerous and fashionable company. The rooms of the new building being particularly eligible, and near completion, it was thought desirable to make a push to have them complete, so that a double result might, if possible, be achieved. One was the gratification of the curiosity of the guests, who were enabled to obtain an early acquaintance with the new building; the other a provision for the guests' comfort. Moreover, it had been intimated that their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales would honour the Prime Minister and Mrs. Disraeli with their company.

As general interest is taken in the magnificent buildings now in progress for the consolidation of the chief public departments under one roof, a cursory description of the portion used for the purposes of the reception may not be out of place. Under existing circumstances this may be most conveniently done by tracing the progress of the visitors from their setting down at the entrance to their actual reception in the Foreign Secretary's room. The entrances from Downing-street and Charles-street only are at present available. As one enters at the gates in Downing-street there is, on the right hand, a short flight of steps leading up to the lower corridor conducting to the grand staircase. This opens on the left-hand side at the centre of the corridor, which runs the entire length of this quarter of the building. Passing on, however, beyond the Downing-street entrance into what will be the quadrangle, and turning sharp round to the right, the grand entrance, known at present as the portico entrance, is found. This also is an approach to the lower corridor leading to the grand staircase. On the recent occasion the portico entrance was set apart for the exclusive use of the Prince and Princess of Wales and their suites. The lower corridor runs from east to west the whole length of this wing of the building. The walls are panelled in vellum and tint, and amber, with dado of green. It is pierced on each side with avenues leading to various rooms, to be used for the practical purposes of the Foreign Office Department. Midway to the grand staircase, on the left-hand side of the lower corridor, is the secondary staircase, parallel, as it were, to the grand staircase, leading to the Secretary's apartments above. The gaps in the corridor opening upon the secondary staircase were screened off, being draped with crimson cloth. The lower corridor and grand staircase were likewise carpeted with the same material. The grand staircase starts from the centre, and works up right and left to the grand corridor, the balusters, hand-rail, and strings being particularly noticeable. The balusters are of fine alabaster, the hand-rail of dove-coloured marble, while the string-courses are of black marble. The basement pillars of the hand-rail on each side are fashioned out of two fine specimens of what is known as Devonshire marble, highly polished, but which in this instance comes from Cornwall. The lower stage walls of the staircase are of amber colour, charged with honeysuckle pattern of gold and black; dividing panels of black with arabesques of tridents and dolphins, with Royal initials in gold. The Royal arms are emblazoned in full colour and gold, forming centre features. The upper stage walls are of soft-toned green, powdered with ornament in white, black, and gold, dado of deep green, panelled with black lines, with fret in black, and yellow for borders. The lower stage of the staircase is also pleasantly and effectively relieved by some elaborate diamond-shaped paneling in natural and fancy marbles. The marbles used are those known as Irish green, Devonshire, dove, Vienna, prince red, and black, the whole being enriched with gold mouldings. The lower corridor and staircase were lined with rare tropical plants and beautiful flowers, agreeable to the eye and refreshing to the senses. Before leaving the staircase it may be added that it is lighted during the day, from the south, by seven windows, and at night by two splendid corona gas chandeliers, suspended from each side of the ceiling. The corridor on the principal story, to which the grand staircase leads, is supported upon massive columns of British granite, over the capitals of which runs a decorated frieze. The ceiling of the principal corridor is of pale blue charged with ornaments in gold and supported by columns of Devonshire marble, surmounted by a highly decorated frieze and cornice, enriched with gold mouldings. The roof of the grand staircase is most elaborately decorated. The roof is deeply coffered; the panels contain ornaments in bold relief, treated richly with gold, the mouldings being of green of pale greyish hue. The central portion of the roof will display a rather flat cupola with pendentives, the latter to bear figures of the quarters of the earth; the former a series of figures representing the nations arranged beneath a zodiacal circle, and a vault of pale blue, powdered with stars. Passing up the grand staircase to the right, the company approached the Foreign Secretary's saloon through the corridor on the principal story. This corridor, like that below, runs the entire length of this wing of the building. It is likewise pierced for rooms, there being six on each side for the general or special use of the department, several of which were used for refreshment and retiring purposes. The grand corridor is divided into seven arches, each arch on each side being ornamented with most elaborate designs in stonework, in the nature of arabesque, comprising scrollwork interlaced with flowers, fruit, tendrils, and animals such as squirrels, reflecting, both in design and execution, great credit on the artists employed. The capitals are likewise ornamented with scrollwork, enriched with gold mouldings. At the head of the grand staircase, to the right, is the principal saloon, a noble room, of considerable elevation, lighted by five windows, three of which look out upon the ornamental water in the inclosure of St. James's Park, and the remaining two upon the park, in the direction of the Duke of York's Column. The walls of this apartment are prepared in sage green, bordered with black. The field is powdered with ornaments in gold and black, and the border enriched with an intricate arabesque in gold. The ceiling of the room is coffered in octagons geometrically arranged, decorated in pale green and gold, the girders being panelled with ornament in porcelain, white in relief on amber tint. On reaching the top of the grand staircase the visitors proceeded at once to this saloon.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—We are requested to state that the Dean and Chapter of Westminster are anxious to give every facility for seeing all parts of the Abbey to all persons of whose respectability and trustworthiness they can be assured. The nave and transepts are open to the public at all times from nine to six in summer and from ten to four in winter. In order to see the Royal and private chapels, any visitor who sends in his address to the Dean or one of the Canons, or who leaves his address at the entrance of the chapels, has permission to see them at leisure. The small payments for seeing the chapels form a fund for paying the guides, who are forbidden to receive any other gratuity. Any surplus is devoted to the decoration of the Abbey. Artists who desire to sketch, on application to the Dean, can obtain the necessary order for a twelvemonth. For the public in general the attendance of the guides is needed in the survey of the Royal tombs and chapels, both for the protection of the monuments and for the satisfaction of those who need explanations. Some years ago, and again some months ago, when the attendance of the guides was for a time dropped by way of experiment, the complaints of the visitors were so numerous as to necessitate a return to the usual arrangement. The disfigurement of the monuments in former days, and even by educated persons at the present time, unfortunately shows that the superintendence of the guides is absolutely necessary. For those who prefer to dispense with the explanations of the attendants, small guide-books, containing a full account of all the tombs, can be procured within the Abbey. The public are warned against unauthorized persons offering themselves as guides outside the Abbey, who cause considerable annoyance by exacting money and misleading visitors on false pretences. Any complaints against the authorized guides made to the Dean will receive immediate attention.—*Spectator.*

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The present Legislative Body, it seems, will not be dissolved until the expiration of its term in 1869.

The *Moniteur* publishes a report of Marshal Niel upon the organization of the National Guard Mobile. The Marshal estimates the probable effective strength of this body of men at about 550,000.

Another popular disturbance in France is reported. At Grenoble on Monday, says a Paris telegram, "300 young men sang the 'Marseillaise' in front of the Prefecture of Police, the Bishops' palace, and the College of Jesuits. They dispersed quietly."

ITALY.

After several days' debate the Italian Government has succeeded in passing the first paragraph of the Grinding-tax Bill, which imposes a tax of 2 lire per quarter on grain, 80 centimes on maize and barley, 1 lire 20 centimes on oats, and 50 centimes on beans and vetches. The paragraph was carried by 184 against 149 votes.

Victor Emmanuel is seriously ill at Turin, and the Pope is seriously ill at Rome. His Holiness is suffering from an intestinal complaint, the King from apoplectic fits. Both are said to be in a state of great danger.

PRUSSIA.

Much opposition and ill-feeling prevailed in those districts of Bavaria that were ceded to Prussia by the treaty of 1866. On the occasion of examining the lists of the landwehr in Traunstein, the anti-Prussian feeling found vent in a serious disturbance, in which the people are reported to have demolished the Townhall and ill-used the gendarmes. At Frosberg the voter shouted, "We will not become Prussians."

AUSTRIA.

The discussion of the Schools Bill in the Upper House of the Reichsrath was concluded on Tuesday, and the bill was read the third time and passed. Only nineteen members voted for the proposals of the minority, and in all essential points the bill passed in the form in which it left the Lower House.

In Wednesday's sitting of the financial committee of the Lower House the Minister of Finance, who had been invited to attend, stated, in reply to a question, that the deficit of the next three years would be covered by the proposed financial measures, and that, with the intended reform of the taxation, there would in future be no deficit. The Minister considered that a tax upon capital was just, as industry was already sufficiently burdened with taxation.

ROUMANIA.

A bill of a most oppressive nature against the Jews has been introduced into the Moldo-Wallachian Parliament. Among other prohibitions, the Jews are forbidden to purchase or sell houses, to take a lease of farms, to associate in trade with Christians, or to sell provisions to anyone not being a Jew. Lord Lyons and the Chevalier di Nigra, the Italian Minister, have informed the Israelite Alliance in Paris that England and Italy have taken diplomatic steps at Bucharest on behalf of the Jewish population of the Danubian Principalities.

THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Butler opened the prosecution of president Johnson before the Senate Court on Monday on the charges of impeachment. The impeachment managers offered in evidence copies of the original appointment of Mr. Stanton as Secretary of the War Department, and also President Johnson's message to Congress assigning reasons for his removal. Chief Justice Chase, as president at the trial of President Johnson, has claimed judicial power, which the Senate has admitted, notwithstanding the opposition of the managers for the trial. The House of Representatives has resolved to attend in a body during the impeachment trial.

A bill prohibiting appeals from the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court has been passed over the President's veto by party votes in both Houses of Congress.

The Senate has passed a bill sent up from the House of Representatives abolishing the revenue tax on domestic manufactures, with an amendment imposing a tax of 2 dols. upon every 1000 dols. worth of articles manufactured above 10,000 dols. The House has passed a bill providing that, in case of the death or disability of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Senior Associate Justice shall act as his substitute until a regular appointment can be made. The House of Representatives have also passed a bill continuing the Freedmen's Bureau for one year.

Major General Thomas has notified to General Grant that an armed organisation is being effected in Tennessee to take forcible possession of the Central State Government. General Grant has authorised General Thomas to use all the force at his disposal to protect the State authorities.

The New Jersey and Michigan Conventions have declared for the nomination of General Grant for the Presidency.

St. Patrick's Day was enthusiastically kept by the Irish, but passed off without disturbance.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AT THE ANTIPODES.—The welcome given to Prince Alfred in the colony of Tasmania last January was both simple and hearty. The following is an extract from a letter addressed by his Royal Highness to the Governor, dated Jan. 23:—"I beg you will also convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Government and to the colonists generally for their hearty welcome and kindly efforts to make my stay amongst them a pleasant one, in which they so well succeeded, and assure them that I shall always look back to it with gratitude." Prince Alfred, in his reply to the address of the Legislative Council, said:—"It is no less a pleasure for me to receive than it is for you to offer the expressions of your devotion and loyalty to the Queen, my mother. The gratification which I feel at your cordial welcome is indeed enhanced by the assurance that you recognise, in the fact of my visit to these shores, that solicitude in the welfare of her subjects which her Majesty feels, and which was also always shared during his life by my dear father." To the members of the House of Assembly the Duke said:—"It gives me very great satisfaction to learn that, however varied may be the shades of political feeling among you on other matters, you, the representatives of the people of Tasmania, are unanimous in the expression of your deep attachment and loyalty towards her Majesty's throne and person. It is indeed a source of the truest gratification to me that the Queen, in intrusting to me the command of one of her Majesty's ships, should have afforded me the opportunity of visiting these most important possessions of the British empire." In answer to the address of the Lord Bishop of Tasmania and the clergymen of the United Church of England and Ireland, Prince Alfred observed,—"I receive with much pleasure the hearty welcome you have given me on my arrival in this colony, where I rejoice to find the Church of England so firmly established. I trust, no less than you, that from this time, if it be possible, the ties which unite you to England may become closer still; though the number of assurances I have received would lead me to suppose that nothing could be deeper than the affection or stronger than the attachment which already does, and I have no doubt always will, exist in the hearts of the colonists of Australasia towards the mother country and the British throne. I hope that, with God's assistance and the good example of my dear father before me, I shall always fulfil the duties of my position to the satisfaction of her Majesty the Queen, my mother, and my country."

THE PUBLIC GRANT TO THE VOLUNTEERS.—It will be interesting to the public, and especially to volunteers, to learn some details of the vote of £385,100, agreed to by Parliament last week to defray the charge for volunteer corps for the year ending March 31, 1869. The capitation grants amount to £228,650, for 245,276 grants, as against £205,500 voted in 1867-8, for 221,134 grants, showing an increase this year in the amount of £23,150, and in grants of 24,142. In the capitation estimate the various branches of the service are thus classified:—Artillery, at 30s.; light horse, engineers, and rifle, at 20s.; and extra auxiliaries, at 10s. There is a net increase of £24,150 in this year's estimate over that of last year. The pay and incidental expenses of adjutants of volunteer corps are set down at £94,400; the pay and expenses of sergeant-instructors at £58,000; and miscellaneous charges at £4700. The pay of adjutants, at 10s. per diem, amounts to £51,965; allowance in lieu of servants, to £5200; allowance in lieu of forage, £10,380; allowance in lieu of lodgings, £11,700; contingent allowance, at £4 per company, £9450. Of the £58,000, voted for the sergeant-instructors, £47,400 is for pay; £1950 for extra allowance to those acting as sergeants-majors; and £1200 for allowance to sergeant-instructors who obtain certificates at the School of Musketry. According to estimate the volunteer army consists this year of 154,689 men, as against 142,849 men estimated for in 1867-8, showing an increase of 11,840 men.

THE ENGLISH AND NATIVE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA.

THE following interesting memorandum on the above subject has just been published by Sir Robert Montgomery, late Governor of the Punjab:—

In a debate on the Mysore question, during the last Session of Parliament, Lord Cranborne demurred to the wholesale condemnation of the native system of government, which, he asserted, "had a fitness and geniality which we could not realise and which compensated in some degree for the material evils it induced." Similar sentiments were expressed by Sir Stamford Northcote.

On perusing these opinions, the Viceroy of India expressed it as his own opinion that the natives were uncontestedly more prosperous and, *sua si bona sunt*, far more happy in British territory than under native rulers; and he called on selected officers holding high posts in India for opinions bearing on the subject.

The following is a brief summary of the opinions for and against the systems of the British and native Governments:—

In favour of the British Government.—The people are more prosperous; there is greater security of life and property; there is religious liberty; there is better protection from open and daring crime; our revenue system offers a better title; the Government demand is limited; merchants and bankers are more prosperous; the agricultural classes are better off; trade is free, and there is greater facility for traffic; and our power, our success, and our moderation have raised the reputation of the British Government.

On the side of the native Government it is asserted that the following classes are opposed to the rule of the British Government:—The nobility and courtiers, native chiefs, native gentlemen, the sacerdotal classes, the military classes, the political and ambitious, and the producers of Indian manufactures—such as goldsmiths, brocaders, &c.

As militating also against the British rule, there is the fact that we are aliens in everything—strangers in the land—and that there is a great gulf between us and the governed.

Our judicial system is most unpopular, with its long delays, its niceties, and complicated system, and legal technicalities, and is very costly. It has been prematurely raised to a standard suited to European requirements, and is incongruous to the people, whose simple idea of justice is that it should be prompt, cheap, and vigorous.

The natives are bewildered with the number of departments—our constant changing, and altering, and modifying of law and procedure. The mass do not understand our rapid and restless legislation, nor the necessity for it. They are perplexed and suspicious of designs to subvert their customs and religion.

They dislike our sale of land for arrears of revenue, imprisonment for debt, our system of taxation, our exemption of women from punishment for adultery. Our continued interference in the every-day concerns of life, especially in statistics and sanitary arrangements, entailing constant costs from overbearing and extortionate native officials, is very distasteful to them.

Another cause of popular disaffection is our constant call for witnesses from their remote homes, their delay and their scant compensation, or often no compensation at all.

Our assumption laws have given great offence, especially in the case of dowry. The most minute grants are inquired into with rigour, and the holders of nearly all grants, small or large, are presented with the certainty of an immediate fall or a slow extinction.

The populace like the pageantry and prizes of life and the liberal display of native chivalry. There is nothing of this in our Government. We, indeed, encourage it, and hold all the prizes. Our rewards are few, and given grudgingly.

When we annex a country, all men of rank are thrown out of employment. The nobles have no lucrative or honourable posts. The old aristocracy are impoverished. Cadets of old and good families have no career to look forward to. Except in rare cases, there is a want of sympathy and consideration shown them by our officers. They feel it keenly.

As a rule we are unsympathising and uncompromising. Our Government does not accommodate itself to the tastes and genius of a simple and more imaginative race.

If the balance be fairly struck, it will undoubtedly be found in favour of our rule as regards the material prosperity of the country and the progress of civilisation. But the point still remains, do the natives feel themselves happier under our rule than under that of a native Government? Would those now living under a native Government prefer it to being annexed to the British territory?

I unhesitatingly affirm that they would not elect to change their condition and to forfeit their nationality.

It is well, I think, that this reflection of popular sentiments should be held up against the temptation of annexation for the supposed good of the people; although it is but fair and due to ourselves that we should justify the continuance of our dominion by the many material advantages it has conferred.

The discussion will have been very valuable if it should disclose the real views of our Asiatic subjects and lead us to consider in what manner and by what means our defects can be remedied and our rule be made more popular.

Our officers are young, and few, and scattered, and have much to learn. To administer the mass of law imposed on them they are chained to their courts and offices from morning till night. They have no leisure for personal intercourse, to mix with the people, to gain their trust, to disabuse them of unjust prejudices, to make known our motives of real benevolence, and to ascertain their views.

An acute observer of one of our most recently annexed provinces informs me that the gulf is increasing, the people are disheartened.

This result may, in a great measure, be attributed to the passion for change; and centralisation, which has increased of late years, and under which is termed the non-regulation system, has disappeared.

The common error lies in our insular proneness to contract and generalise—therein in one class all the many separate nationalities and distinct races which have been successively added to the rule of England. In an empire made up of such differing languages and distinct customs, it must be popular, as it is politic, to encourage to a great extent a local administration and a local adaptation of laws.

There can be no doubt, as is stated by Sir Donald McLeod, that where an Englishman has shown a warm and rational sympathy with the people, they stretch towards the sunshine and invariably respond in a manner which is unmistakable, regarding him with feelings akin to affection; and, in the case of Government, the same result would follow from the same cause.

The people should be more largely employed in all social and municipal affairs, which they are most competent to manage. Till quite recently this was neglected, and even now it is very partially done. The appointment of honorary magistrates, municipal committees, zailiffs, &c., only three or four years ago, met with opposition from many officers. They made no allowance for crudeness of decisions. They seemed to expect the precision and correctness of trained officers.

I believe that to do full justice to the people it is indispensable that we legislate with the aid of a native council assembled by each local governor, so as to admit of the existence of an authorised machinery for administering the wants and requirements of the natives in matters, both judicial and administrative, connected with the soil and their everyday transactions.

It is not suggested that this council should be permanent, or consist always of the same members; for to that constitution there would be obvious objections, and there are obvious advantages in its elasticity; but the intention is to unite the landed gentry and men of wealth and ability in the administration of their country; to bring to bear, through the local governments, the utmost light and the fullest information on important measures, and to secure, as far as possible, a check against precipitate or unwise innovation.

At present we know little or nothing of the current of native feeling. There are the greatest difficulties in testing it. We need an enlightened native opinion, and for our rulers to know what it is. The few native gentlemen in the Legislative Council of the Viceroy—collected from different parts of the great empire, in an assembly the proceedings of which are conducted in the English language, with which they are rarely acquainted—have no real weight or power of assertion. The councils should be local, one for each province; the Viceroy and his Council should exercise merely general control and supervision, and reserve their action for questions of imperial importance.

Further, that whatever education we may give them in a school will have little material effect, unless the people at the same time be encouraged to use and trained to vigorous thought and self-reliance by taking some part in the administration.

Every effort should be made to try and soften the hard, straight lines of our unyielding and uncongenial rule and to adapt it more to the feelings and sympathies of the people; to attach the people to their local officers; to remove the dull sense of restraint and repression which now overpowers them; and to afford scope for their legitimate aspirations and love of distinction in our service, both civil and military.

This will not be effected by limiting and checking the powers of English superiors, and so lowering their personal influence and respect, as would seem to have been done in some of our oldest provinces; but by raising some among the natives distinguished by ability and integrity to participate and in upholding that needful authority. The recent order of the Viceroy of India admitting natives to be assistants in the civil service is a step in the right direction.

TWO RAILWAY COMPENSATION CASES were tried at the Liverpool Assizes on Monday. In one, a Mr. Habane, a civil engineer, resident at New York, sought to recover compensation for injuries received on the London and North-Western Railway, at Bleckley, in December last. The company had paid £200 into court, and the jury awarded £500 more. In the other case, Mr. Parkinson, of Preston, veterinary surgeon, sought to recover damages for injuries received on Sept. 19, when travelling from Preston to Liverpool, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. A verdict was returned for the plaintiff. Damages, £1800.

A MOST EXTRAORDINARY SERMON.

THE public announcement that a sermon on the occasion of his second marriage would be preached in Oldswinford church by the Rev. C. H. Craufurd has, during the last week or so, caused a great deal of gossip in the neighbourhood of Stourbridge. The church, on Sunday morning, was open an hour before the time for the commencement of the service, and people began to assemble even at that unusual time. Ere long they swarmed in in large numbers, and every part of the church was crowded. The Rector took his text, 1 Cor. iv. 3, "With me it is a very small thing that I shall be judged of you or of man's judgment." He went on to say that the conclusion to which he was led, so far as concerned his recent marriage with one of plebeian birth, and the superintendent of his domestic establishment, was that they had no right to judge her or him. If they did so, to be judged of them ought to be, and most assuredly would be, a very small thing. But, nevertheless, to avoid all reasonable cause of offence, and to justify in their sight—unless, indeed, their mental ophthalmia was utterly irremediable—what was incongruous, he should, in consequence of his connection with them as their Rector, afford them some explanation. Though it might appear to some egotistic, he began by telling them more particularly who, by birth and connection, he was. He was the eldest son of a soldier, second to the great Duke alone. Such was his unrivalled renown that, in the year 1806, though only a Colonel—and the appointment of a man of his rank was entirely without a precedent—he was raised, for special purposes, to the grade of Brigadier, that he might be sent out with an expedition as leader. Were not money the object of his (the preacher's) utter scorn, he might adduce, boastingly, the fact that his father's share of prize-money was estimated to exceed half a million. A large and most unnecessary addition was made to the force; and, as all the officers of higher rank would have been ready to throw up their commissions if so large a force were intrusted to a Brigadier, his father was superseded; and, under a cowardly commander, a disgraceful failure ensued. His father's army rank and standing were such that, if he had not prematurely fallen before the walls of Roderigo—as, alas! he would not but for the too chivalrous and more than knightly courage with which he exposed himself on the top of a glacis, shouting his orders at a pitch of voice which drew on him the whole fire from the enemy—he had not thus prematurely fallen, he would, on the conclusion of the war, as a mere matter of course, from his abilities as a soldier, have been elevated to the Peerage, and raised therein at last one step. He was the friend of Queensbury, of Granville, of Windham, and of Moore. He was the friend and most intimate associate of the father of our present Queen, and in his youth was an object of favourable regard to the heroic Frederick of Prussia. The gallant Marquis of Londonderry loved him as a brother, and followed him, heart-broken, to the grave. He was inferior in opportunity alone to Nelson, Abercrombie, and Moore. Such was his gallant father. As regarded his ancestry, he would only say it was not unconnected with the heroic Wallace, and that he was at least collaterally allied to, if not descended from, the Lords of Craufurd, who ruled their broad domains in all the majesty of feudal state for centuries before the many mushrooms who swarmed at the present day had sprouted from their native dunghill. He would not trouble them with an account of his mother's good, but less illustrious, family. Before he attained his highest elevation, an offer of marriage was made to one of that family by the Emperor of the French, and by her rejected. Mr. Craufurd then detailed the aristocratic alliances of his uncle, Sir James Craufurd; his cousins, Colonel Alexander Craufurd and Sir George Craufurd; and his honoured uncle, who supplied to him a father's place, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Craufurd, whose wife was a daughter of the Earl of Harrington, and widow of the Duke of Newcastle. Such was the sort of alliance which, in point of birth and connection, he might have fairly expected, and when a man in that parish had the effrontery to aspire to the hand of one of his daughters, though he had never spoken a word to her in his life, the highest lady in the land could not have been more astounded and indignant when he told her of the insult she had received, and he felt his insolence could not have been greater if he had demanded the daughter of a duke. It was partly to save them from the repetition of the insult that he permitted them to fix their residence elsewhere. A woman who married beneath her station fell to her husband's level, and was disgraced for ever, with scarcely an exception. For it was the appointment of God that the man should rule over the woman, and that the wife should be in subjection to her husband. But, by the usages of society, if a man married one of inferior position, instead of falling to the rank of his wife, he exalted her to his, and unless a feeble fool—and such should remain unmarried except they found a strong-minded woman—unless a feeble fool, or careless of his beauty, and a traitor to his trust, a lowly woman, whom God's providence might have guided him to marry, and thus committed to his care, would, under his assiduous care, be raised, instructed, refined, and made in all respects a helpmeet for him. With such a woman (continued Mr. Craufurd) it had been his will and pleasure to form an alliance—an alliance little more in accordance with his rank—and he was sure his wife would pardon him in saying it—than was that which occurred when King Cophetua espoused the beggar-girl. Well, he had married her, and pray what then? Circumstances, to which it would be as improper as needless for him further to refer, had for some years condemned him, of course voluntarily, to a life of almost unbroken solitude, till at last, his health and spirits having greatly given way, he felt it necessary to have a companion of his solitude, and an attendant upon the infirmities of his declining years. He had told them fully what were his birth, family, and connections, in no boastful spirit, as he might fairly ask them to believe; for, during the thirty-two years he had occupied that palpit, he had never before spoken of himself. He was no more able to appreciate the little social distinctions which existed in that parish, and which were chiefly founded on money, than to compare the height of molehills from a mountain's top. His wife was of plebeian birth; and, as such was by the providence of God, it was no disgrace. Where was he, who had not mixed in the great world of London since a young man, and among whose ancestry the great families of that neighbourhood would have deemed it an honour to have obtained a place—where was he to find a woman to take charge of a gouty old gentleman like him? (Laughter). From anyone who presumed to reproach him with his wife's lowly parentage, he could endure the taunt; and his only retort would be to inquire, "Who was your grandfather?" Having, then, no choice to him appreciable in rank, and utterly despising money, he had chosen one whose goodness, whose kindness of heart, whose love only disinterested, whose simple piety, were incomparably more to him than her birth. But she was not only not of high birth—she was not highly educated. Putting aside Steel and Somerville and others, what were the average accomplishments and learning of ladies? They could make drawings, which, to pass muster, their master must retouch; they could play a little, sing a little, and dance considerably. They were deeply read in novels and superficially, perhaps, in some other things. They could write, and perhaps speak, a little French, and less German or Italian. That his wife was deficient in these respects was not their loss, and, therefore, concerned them not. As for himself, he cared little for drawing or music, except the finest; and the finest was always to be had for money. And as to languages—to express himself in a familiar parlance—one tongue was sufficient. If they heard any inaccuracies in his wife's language, he would ask if their language was always strictly accurate? Those who thought proper to ridicule his wife for inaccuracies he would remind that their tenements were constructed of a material largely manufactured in that neighbourhood—certainly not iron—and to such persons the throwing of stones was dangerous. Mr. Craufurd tersely illustrated this by a list of expressions used in the district, exposing particularly the abuse of the letter "h." But, further, his wife might possibly be something at a loss with regard to the little conventionalities of society. He could not, however, suppose his neighbours were so brutally deficient in good breeding, and so utterly un-Christians in such a trivial matter, as to expose her to ridicule; and, secondly, by reason of his infirmities, his studious habits, and his numerous occupations, and her quiet domestic nature, they had resolved to lead a

life of almost complete seclusion, devoting themselves to their improvement, to the duties of their station, and the preparation of their souls for heaven.

MONKEYS AT THE COLOGNE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

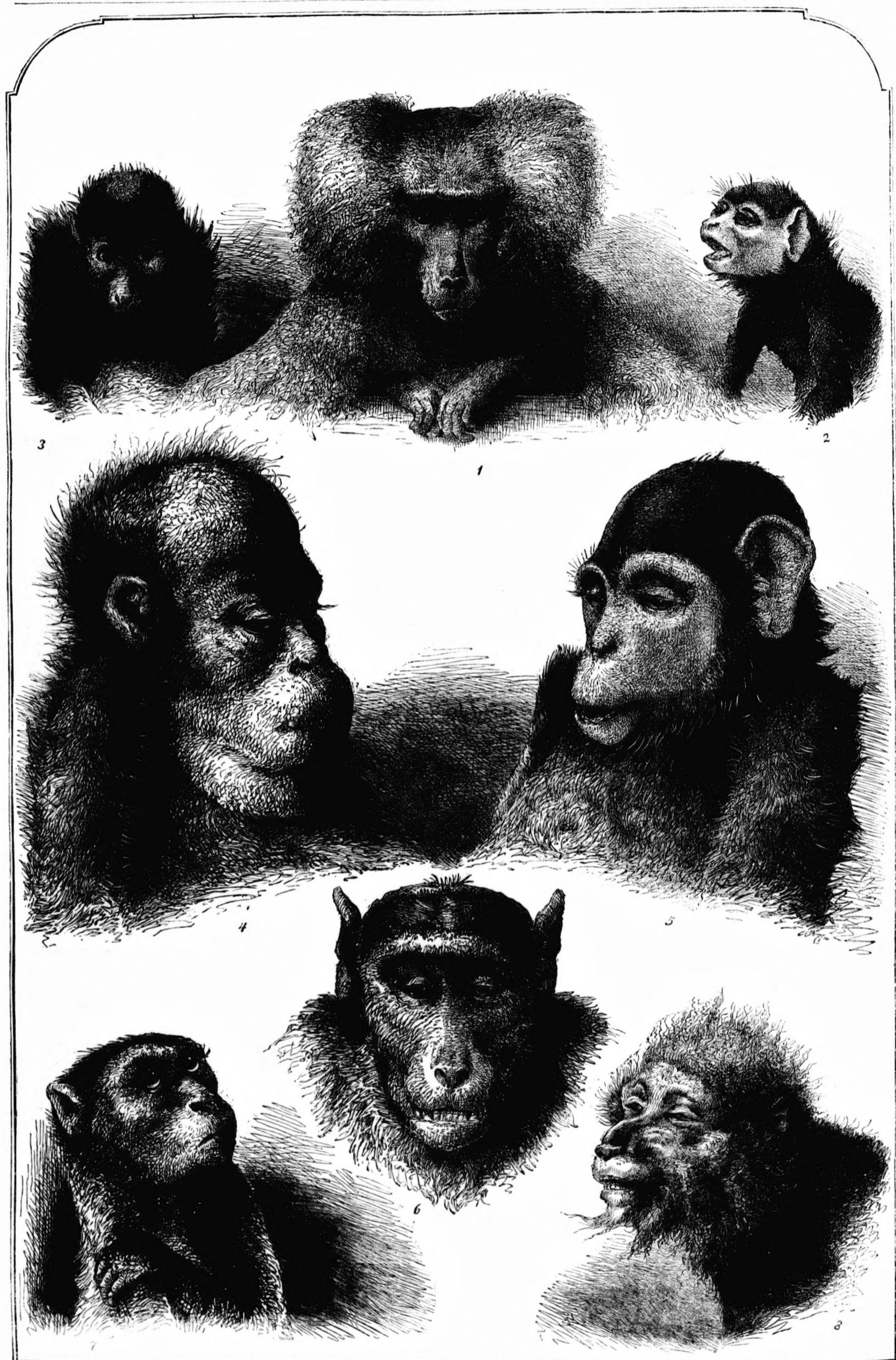
THERE is something very pathetic about the spectacle of a cage of monkeys—pathetic, that is, by a strange kind of inversion of feeling; a melancholy self-application of pity which involves a reflection that most of us are a little unwilling to acknowledge. These poor restless, vain, self-conscious, greedy, artful, shallow creatures are so—so—awfully like ourselves. It is as well to speak plainly. While we gaze upon them in a sort of half dreadful and yet pensive wonder we perceive strange likenesses to people that we have met, and, fight against it as we may, are only conscious of the possibility that those very people may at some time or other have associated us with the grinning, chattering, half-repulsive creatures who exercise a strange fascination over us, and from whom we at last wrench ourselves away with a determination to forget them as soon as possible. We have most of us had this feeling revived by a visit to that horrid chimpanzee at the Crystal Palace; and when we saw him picking his teeth with a straw or looking at his self-complacent and rather seriously-philosophical visage in a glass, we pictured him to ourselves in a paletot, a large collar, a shiny, curly-brimmed hat, a pair of gold spectacles, and a white tie; and then we would have exactly resembled people we could name; yes, and intellectual, well-thought-of, virtuous people, too—savans, philanthropists. Ah! there's so much in clothes and grave self-possession; and if the chimpanzee had only been furnished with the former, the latter would have carried him through in almost any society. He has brethren in the Zoological Gardens at Cologne, whence our little series of friendly portraits comes to add one or two more choice examples to our family album. You may see him, and see at a glance that all we have hinted at is true. No. 4, he with the sleepy eye, the lifted brow, the cogitative mouth and jaws, is he not the very picture of profound but yet critical contemplation? We have seen eminent lawyers, railway directors, logicians, metaphysicians; nay, even doctors, proctors, cler—; well, all sorts of people, with that look. The more critical faculty, however, the argumentative, cross-examining, analytical, remorseless, destructive type, is to be seen in No. 5, who hails from Western Africa, as his relative does from Borneo. Woe betide poor pathetic imploring wistful No. 7 (the witness in the lower left-hand corner), if No. 5 had him in the box with a contradictory statement. One might almost as well be that poor little detected thief, No. 3 (top left-hand corner), who has been convicted before Alderman and Sheriff No. 6 of stealing a bit of bacon from a shop door; or even wretched No. 2, applicant for charitable relief of the society whereof that stern old person, No. 1, she in the fur tippet, is treasurer and honorary secretary. As to No. 8 (lower left-hand corner), we all know him, with his ill-timed personal jokes, his vulgar allusions to our specially concealed weaknesses, his gross familiarity and atrocious self-conceit. If any one has satisfaction in contemplating this little gallery of portraits at all it will find its consummation in being able to show—his own likeness.

FALSE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

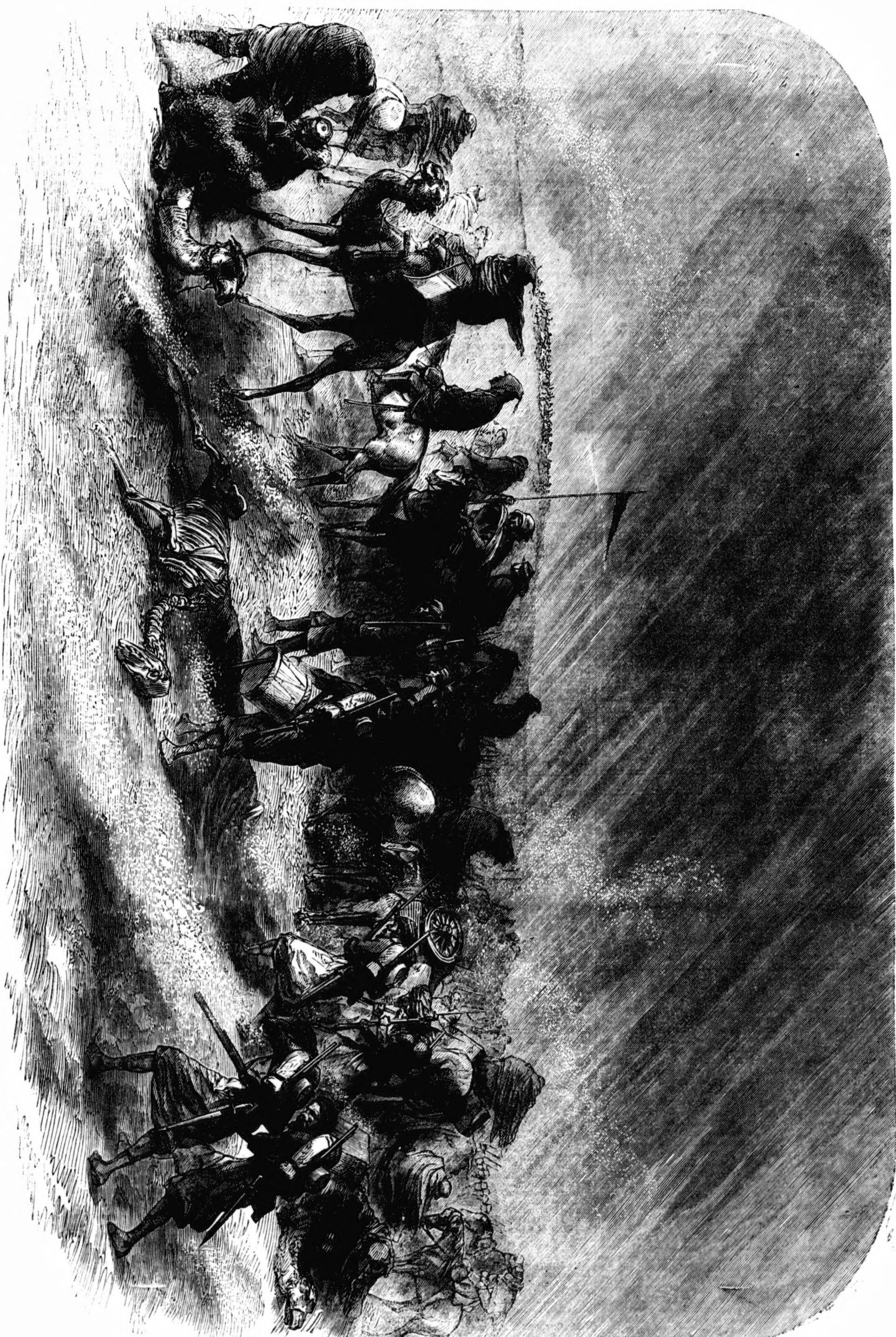
THE paper just presented to Parliament of the number of persons convicted in the metropolitan parishes of having used false weights and measures during the first six months of last year is worthy of public attention. It is as remarkable for what it tells as for what it conceals. The information of conviction is confined to Finsbury, St. Marybone, St. Pancras, and Westminster; it will be seen, therefore, that vast districts of the metropolis are omitted. In the four districts mentioned fifty-eight persons were convicted in the Finsbury division of Middlesex, 112 in Westminster, twenty in Marybone, and thirty in St. Pancras. The fines vary in amount from 5s. to £5, but it is difficult to understand the principle upon which they are levied. It is reasonable enough that a defaulter should be fined more heavily for a second or third offence than for the first, but the scale of fines, as here set down, scarcely seems in accordance with this obvious rule. We observe, for example, a fine of £2 for a first offence, and a fine of 12s. 6d. for a second, the occupation of the culprits being alike in both instances. But this return, although not wholly intelligible, and very far from complete, has but too much significance. The good faith of Englishmen was once proverbial. It was either a special virtue of the nation or it was believed to be so. But of late swindling, to use a blunt word, which however, conveys no discredit in sporting circles, appears to have grown into a fashion. And this professional dishonesty is not confined to cultureless tradesmen, but is to be met with also in eminent contractors, railway directors, bankers, and merchants. The disease is so widely spread that it is difficult to avoid the taint, and it is a disease which is not likely to be cured without some violent remedy. If everybody ceases to trust his neighbour, society will be at a stand-still, and we shall be forced to turn honest in self-defence. Fines upon knavery are, no doubt, serviceable; but, unfortunately, they rarely touch the worst defaulters. By all means let us do what we can to punish the crime of using false measures and weights, but do not let us forget that there are even worse forms of dishonesty against which the law is at present powerless. The corruption of the lower walks of society is, no doubt, due in a large measure to the corruption which pervades the higher.—*Express*.

THE Standing Committee of Convocation of the Queen's University of Ireland have met to consider the claim of the University with reference to Parliamentary representation. The president of the Galway College, Mr. Berwick, occupied the chair, and it was determined to bring the question formally before Convocation at its meeting on the 14th inst. The Queen's Colleges graduates expected one of the seats taken from the smaller Irish boroughs. It is understood that, on the same occasion, the present position of University education in Ireland will be considered.

SCHOOLS INQUIRY COMMISSION.—Mr. Fearon, in his report on secondary education in Scotland, just issued, states the most important conclusion he derived from his brief inspection of Scotch burgh schools, and the educational principle which his tour most strongly impressed on his mind was that education, to be good, must be popular. To have a really good education, a real desire for it and a real interest in it must be evinced. There were other lessons of minor importance which he learned at the same time, such as the uses and abuses of endowments, and the direction in which they should be reformed; the importance of not placing masters beyond the influence of the public favour, and making them neither too dependent nor too independent; the value of cheap means of education and psychological training for the teachers of secondary schools; the advantages of day-school education for the middle classes, &c. But all these seemed to be less vital truths than the great maxim that no good education will be produced until there is a demand for it. Subordinate to all considerations prompted by his inquiry was the on-grand question suggested by this maxim—How is this demand for a good education to be excited among the middle classes? The reason why nine Scotch burgh schools were so well attended, and why such good work was done in most of them, was owing to their being constantly stimulated from without. Public demand for the things which they produced made them work, and public interest in the result of their work helped to make that result successful. The schools were in sympathy with the public and supplied the wants of the public; and thus there was co-operation. With regard to English grammar-schools being so thinly attended, and, proportionately to their wealth, having so little done in them, Mr. Fearon reports that it is because they are not stimulated from without. They are out of sympathy with the public, and the public distrusts them. The English grammar-schools may be right in their theory of what is the best system of education and what is the best for the children to learn; but the parent does not think they are. They have made much of what he considers unsatisfactory to him, and have ignored that which seems to him necessary, so he has, after a long time, come to regard them as hopelessly perverse, loses all interest in them, and either forgoes them altogether or considers them as an unsatisfactory makeshift. Educational enthusiasm is therefore nipped and blighted, and whatever vigour remains flows into private schools. Let grammar-schools, like Scotch burgh schools, assimilate themselves to public requirements; and to effect this the strong hand of authority, guided by men of real educational experience, and of that courage which proceeds from a plenitude of knowledge and keen insight, must interfere on a scale never before attempted in this country. As soon as the public wants begin to be supplied in a manner which appeals to the untutored instincts of plain men the public will be aroused and stimulated and the movement be progressively increased in breadth and intensity.



MONKEY TYPES IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, COLOGNE.



INSURRECTION IN THE SOUTH OF ALGERIA: COLONEL COLONNIUS'S DETACHMENT IN A STORM AFTER A COMBAT AT KHRIDE, ON MARCH 4, 1868—SEE PAGE 220.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 326.

CROWDS IN THE LOBBY, ETC.

ON Monday night the great fight began, and on that night the first shot was fired of a war which will probably be as prolonged and fierce as that which lately raged between the northern and southern States on the American continent. There will be no bloodshed, let us hope, but only a war of angry words. We cannot, however, tell; for already Protestant clergymen talk of fighting to the death and shedding the last drop of their blood. When we arrived in St. Stephen's gallery we found that noble chamber filled with people. There could not have been fewer than 350 strangers there, each with a member's order, for a gallery that will not hold more than seventy. This disorganized crowd some dozen policemen were trying in vain to drill into order. They stopped up the passage; they jammed up the doorway leading into the central hall; and it was only with difficulty and by the aid of a police constable that we could force ourselves through the seething, struggling, impatient crowd. Formerly, strangers, on arrival in this hall, were ranged on the seats on each side, and those who came first were first admitted; but this plan led to great inconveniences. The first places were taken as early as seven o'clock in the morning, either by persons holding tickets or by deputies paid for their attendance. These deputies were not always of a respectable class. Of course, during the long wearisome hours between seven and four they needed refreshment, and many of them got more than refreshed. Then there was, too, buying and selling of seats. A man was employed to keep a seat, and was to have a pay for 5s.; but, if he had a good seat, what should hinder him from selling it at an advanced price? There would be always eager people, on important nights, who would give 10s., or even a sovereign, for a good place. In short, the plan was bad, and about two years ago was abolished; and now all persons holding members' orders have to ballot for priority, under the superintendence of Colonel Forrester, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, and Inspector Denning; who have no very pleasant task, as any man may imagine. This plan, though, is very superior to the other. Nobody now comes early; and after the ballot is over, and the seventy more or less favourites of fortune have been winnowed out of the mass, most of the remainder go away. About the same time another new rule was adopted. Formerly strangers were allowed to enter the members' lobby. The consequence was, said lobby got to be so crowded that members had difficulty in passing to and fro; the clerks wishing to go into the House, or from the House to the offices, had to work their way through a crowd; the police could scarcely keep the door of the House clear; indeed, on more than one occasion the crowd round the door became so dense that Mr. Inspector, with three or four of his men, had resolutely to shoulder the besieging mass away by sheer force. And so it was ordered that the police should keep out strangers in the central hall until after prayers, and then admit only those who had orders for the Speaker's Gallery. This arrangement works much better than the old one, and would work much better still if it could be rigorously carried out; which it cannot be, as members insist upon bringing strangers into the members' lobby; and, of course, no policeman dare to resist a member. Others force their way in, whilst some seem to percolate through all barriers, nobody knows how; perhaps with members up the private staircase, or perhaps they get up the back staircase. We have dwelt upon these lobby arrangements that our readers may more fully understand a scene which we are now going to describe.

A SCENE.

On Monday evening the strangers were all kept for a time in the central hall, and when Mr. Speaker crossed the lobby there were not more than a dozen or so there. Soon, however, they began to appear, percolating into the lobby in the most mysterious manner; and at about four o'clock, just as Mr. Speaker and his flock had finished their prayers, the lobby was inconveniently crowded. Nor could it be cleared; for after prayers were over the members, having by attendance at Divine worship secured places for the night, poured out of the House, and got so inextricably mingled with the crowd that it was quite impossible for the policemen to separate strangers from members. Now, at this moment, who should make his appearance most inopportune but the Lord Mayor of Dublin, preceded by his macebearer, swordbearer, tipstaff, secretary, &c., and supported on each side by an alderman and followed by several councillors and the town clerk. It was quite an imposing procession. The Lord Mayor blazed in scarlet and gold, as likewise did the two aldermen; the swordbearer carried a huge sword of the two-handed sort, five feet long, at least, sheathed in velvet ornamented with gold. The mace, which came next, is the largest that we ever saw. Mr. Tipstaff bore a silver truncheon topped with a crown. Then there was another functionary, whose title we could not learn, bearing a tall staff, or wand, crowned with what seemed to us a cross. With some difficulty a way was made for his Lordship and his cortège. His Lordship had come to present a petition at the bar, not upon this Irish Church question, as some supposed, but praying for the establishment in Dublin of a Royal Institute like that which we have in London. On notice being given to the Sergeant-at-Arms, his Lordship was ordered to advance; whereupon the macebearer, swordbearer, &c., filed off right and left and grounded their arms, and his Lordship, with his town clerk, proceeded to the bar (which for the occasion had been drawn out across the House), heralded by the doorkeeper, who shouted out "the Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin!" and accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Arms, with the mace on his shoulder. His Lordship having arrived at the bar, Mr. Speaker called out, "What have you there, my Lord Mayor?" "A petition, Sir, from the Corporation of the city of Dublin, praying for," &c. The petition was fetched up by the clerk, and then my Lord Mayor, &c., still accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Arms, backed out, bowing as they went, endeavouring, but not very successfully, to keep time, with feet and heads, with their fugeleman, the Sergeant-at-Arms. This backing and bowing, all out of time, is a comical sight, and not uncommonly excites a good deal of mirth. The Lord Mayor of Dublin seems to be the only Mayor who has the privilege of presenting petitions at the bar of the House. Petitions from the Corporation of London are presented in like manner by the Sheriffs; but the Lord Mayor of London has a privilege which the Lord Mayor of Dublin has not. He (when summoned to give evidence before the House) and the Judges have chairs placed for them within the bar, but they must not sit down. The Judges and the Lord Mayor are told by Mr. Speaker "that there are chairs to repose themselves upon," but it is understood that they can only rest themselves by placing their hands upon the chair backs. Meanwhile, there was a most undignified scene of confusion outside. No sooner had the Lord Mayor entered the House than the crowd broke ranks and wandered about uncontrolled and uncontrollable. Now, it unfortunately happened that just at this time the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod marched down to summon the House to the bar of the Lords. This functionary is always received with great respect and ceremony. The police clear the way; the crowd is forced back, and a clear passage is made for his approach. And on his appearance in the lobby the Sergeant-at-Arms bangs to the door, Mr. Deputy Usher knocks with his rod three times, Mr. Sergeant opens the door, and Black Rod marches up to the table. But, alas! when he arrived on Monday night the lobby was in confusion. By dint of great exertion, though, a passage to the door was made for him; but when he arrived the door was open, and could not be closed until the Lord Mayor had got out; and there was nothing for it but that this high functionary—representative of Majesty—had to stand ignobly on one side, jostled by the crowd for a time. However, in a few minutes the way was cleared, and the usual ceremony was duly performed, and we have not heard that any serious consequences have ensued from this unfortunate contretemps.

INSULTED DIGNITY.

Of course the Lord Mayor was allowed to go under the gallery to hear the forthcoming debate, and, of course, all his companions expected to be admitted too. But "No," said the doorkeeper, acting

under peremptory orders; "only the Lord Mayor and the two aldermen are to go in." Whereupon the flame of indignation burst forth, which blazed yet higher when the inexorable official, still acting under orders, firmly insisted that they must stand clear of the doorway. Think of this, ye Hibernians! Is not this another Irish wrong, that the Dublin Corporation, robed and gowned, should be compelled to stand back like common men? For a time these gentlemen were very angry, and even minatory. At length, however, Mr. Alderman Joynt, well known in the lobby, and well acquainted with the rules and customs of the House, having explained that the gallery below the bar was full, and, moreover, that the same privileges had been given to the Dublin Corporation as are given to their London brethren, the flame soon got damped down, and these civic gentlemen departed to the dining-room to comfort themselves under their disappointment, after the manner of corporations in all places and at all times in the history of the world. The Lady Mayoress was there, and, no doubt, expected to get into the gallery; but there was no place there even for a Dublin Lady Mayoress, and all that could be done for her was to get her a peep through the window. It was a sad disappointment; but let her Ladyship console herself with the thought that scores of peeresses and other high-born dames would gladly have paid golden coin to have got into the gallery that night. It was not without exertion of the Sergeant-at-Arms that his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge could get a suitable seat, as a considerable number of peers had to stand; and as to p^rers' eldest sons, they had, except those who came very early, to be inexorably excluded.

GLADSTONE'S SOOTHING SPEECH.

And yet there was not, after all, as it turned out, much to be heard more than usual. Gladstone was eloquent: he cannot speak otherwise than eloquently; but his speech was not, as we thought, one of his grandest displays. No small alarm has been excited amongst the Irish Protestants—and English Protestants, too, for that matter—by the appearance of Gladstone's resolution; and the excitement seems likely to increase and to become more widespread and fervid. And no wonder; for a Protestant Established Church is to many as the very ark of God; and to touch it is to guilty of the sin of Uzzah and to demand his punishment. It was, therefore, not the policy of the leader of the Liberal party to increase this excitement by fervid appeals to the passions of the people, but rather to soothe and calm the fears of his alarmed opponents. He has a great battle before him; and already our ecclesiastics are kicking up, as the vulgar phrase is, clouds of ecclesiastical and theological dust, that they may blind and bewilder weak-minded people. Gladstone's object was clearly to sprinkle this dust with the cold water of promises, arguments, and facts; to allay it so that the people may see clearly what he proposes to do, and also what he does not propose to do. It was a very able, statesmanlike speech that he delivered; but to the strangers in the gallery it was not nearly so exciting as they expected it would be.

STANLEY IN A FIX.

Lord Stanley's speech was admitted by all to be a failure. Nor is this surprising. Lord Stanley had a part allotted to him in that night's performance quite out of his *rôle*. He is not an orator nor a rhetorician. He cannot stir the passions of his hearers; neither is he master of rhetorical arts and tricks. He can make a statement plainly and clearly, and reason, when he is speaking what he himself believes, with more or less force. But on Monday night he had a task to perform which required other qualities than these. He had to make the worse appear the better reason; he had to excite the expectations and hopes of his opponents, and yet so as not to alarm his friends. An exceedingly difficult task this, requiring all the ingenuity, cleverness, tact, not to say cunning, of the Prime Minister rather than the commonplace characteristics of the Foreign Secretary. He was placed between two extremes. Before him was a compact party, whose cry is, "Down with the Irish Church!" behind him a mass of Conservatives and religious zealots, who, as we have said, believe that the Church is the very ark of God. Between these two is a deep gulf, and Lord Stanley's task was to bridge it over—a task quite beyond his engineering art. Then, again, he, as it appeared to us and others, had another difficulty. He had to argue against his convictions. Nobody believes that Lord Stanley, in his heart, admires this Church; everybody believes that if he were but freed from party trammels he would be ready to lead an assault against it. And few people—certainly not Lord Stanley—can speak with effect without the inspiration of faith. We have known even Gladstone weak, and ineffectual, and wordy when the exigency of official position required him to defend something in which he had no faith. "As I believe, so I speak," said one inspired. And this is the main secret of all powerful and effective speaking.

FLOGGING IN THE CONSERVATIVE ARMY.

There was no other speech worthy of notice that night, except Lord Cranborne's, and that was, of its kind, a masterpiece. Since Lord Cranborne left office he has been very moderate, though serious, and even solemn; and when he addressed the House on the principal topics of the day, and especially when he spoke upon the policy of the Government, he seemed to speak more in sorrow than in anger. But the amendment of the Ministry seems quite to have restored him to his former self; and on Monday night he castigated the Government with a severity and bitterness rarely equalled, and never surpassed. There was no question about the entire sincerity of the noble Lord. He laid the lash on with a will, and evidently loved his work; for at every blow of his scorpion-like whip he paused, as if to see whether blood was drawn, and to enjoy the writhings and agonies of his victims. As we sat listening to this speech, we, too—though the blows were not aimed at us—really, from sympathy, winced as they fell. And then every word that he uttered was so true! the sting of them was in their truth. It is questionable whether it was wise to utter them, but undoubtedly they were all true. Mr. Hardy, on Tuesday night, complained bitterly of the severity of the punishment, but he could not deny the truth of all that the noble Lord said. He attempted to mitigate the smart, and to allay the irritation of his wounds, by that weakest of all expedients, the *tu quoque*—which, in English vernacular, means "You're another!" but with no success. This parmaceti is not the sovereign't on earth for an inward wound.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

EARL RUSSELL called attention to the Commission on the neutrality laws, and, moving for further correspondence with respect to the Alabama claims, availed himself of the opportunity to vindicate his administration of affairs at the Foreign Office during the late American struggle.

After some conversation, the LORD CHANCELLOR assured their Lordships that negotiations were not broken off; that Mr. Seward had proposed a general Commission to investigate all claims on each side, and that Lord Stanley had requested more definite information with regard to the scope and object of such a Commission.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GOVERNMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. MILL gave notice that, immediately after the Easter recess, he should ask leave to introduce a bill for the establishment of municipal corporations within the metropolis, and for the creation of a corporation of London. Also, that in Committee on the Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill he should move a clause prohibiting the employment of paid canvassers at Parliamentary elections.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Mr. GREGORY brought under the notice of the House the condition of the British Museum, and made various suggestions, which had for their object the improved administration and management of that institution.

Mr. B. HOPE also offered some remarks upon the subject.

Mr. DISRAELI announced that a bill had been prepared by the Government for effecting a separation of the natural history department from the collection and its removal to South Kensington. That the measure had not yet been introduced to the House was owing to the circumstance that it had been thought expedient to submit it, in the first instance, to the consideration of the trustees of the Museum.

MONDAY, MARCH 30.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord LYVEDEN directed attention to the papers relating to hostilities on the river Plate, and, expressing confidence in the pacific intentions of the Foreign Secretary, urged the Government not to interfere or to take any part in the events which are now transpiring in that quarter of the globe.

The Earl of MALMESBURY assured the noble Lord that there was no ground for apprehension, as Ministers did not intend to make any offer of mediation between the belligerents, or to interfere in any other way. All they had done had been to instruct the British Consul at Buenos Ayres to do his utmost to procure the release of such Englishmen as might have been put under arrest. It would be their duty, however, to carefully watch the progress of matters in the Plate.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

The clerk at the table read (on Mr. Gladstone's motion) the Acts, or, rather, the titles of the Acts, relating to the Established Church in Ireland.

Colonel S. KNOX next moved that the 5th article of the Act of Union be read, and after this had been done Mr. H. E. SUTHERS called on the clerk to read the coronation oath. This led to some delay, the clerk not being provided with the necessary volume; but it was speedily forthcoming, and the oath was read at length, both sides cheering alternately the passages which seemed to favour their special views.

Mr. GLADSTONE then rose, loudly cheered by the Opposition, to move that the House now resolve itself Committee to consider these Acts. He began by a happy reference to the motions just made, accepting them as a sign that some members, at least, would meet his motion by a proposition equally broad and intelligible as his own, and that the solemn controversy on which the House was entering would be conducted without "trick or contrivance." His general object, Mr. Gladstone went on to explain, was to commit the House to the opinion that the Irish Church as an establishment should cease to exist; and, though he did not hold it to be his duty to undertake responsibility for the details of any plan, he did not object to indicate the general bases of a settlement. The cessation of the Irish Church as an establishment must be accompanied by the condition that every proprietary right and every vested interest should receive the amplest consideration and satisfaction; and, more than that, everything which could be considered a matter of feeling must be treated with conciliation, and every doubtful claim even must be handled in a spirit of quiet. The chief thing to be renounced was the maintenance in Ireland of a clergy salaried by the State. Among the claimants for compensation, he enumerated not only the holders of benefices, but those who had devoted themselves to the clerical profession in expectation of succeeding to these benefices; the private holders of advowsons (who owned about one sixth of the Church patronage of Ireland); and he added that recent endowments must also be respected. The result of all these exceptions Mr. Gladstone calculated, would be that what he described as the "Anglican community" would remain in possession of from three fifths to two thirds of the present money value of the Church endowments; and the rest, he insisted, must be treated as an Irish fund, to be used solely for the benefit of the Irish people. The other religious bodies who are subsisted by the State must be treated on exactly the same principles, so as to put an end to all grants from the Consolidated Fund for the support of any religious denomination in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone next defended the Liberal party and himself from the charge of not having dealt with this question before; and, in answer to the sarcasm of "sudden apostasy" aimed at himself, he mentioned that twenty-five years ago, in a letter relating to an electioneering contest, he had declined to pledge himself to maintain the Irish Church on principle, and he attributed his defeat at Oxford to the views he had expressed in 1865. Dealing with the arguments against the abolition of the Irish Church, he dilated at great length on the objection that it would endanger the Established Church in England, and insisted that she would, on the contrary, be greatly strengthened by being relieved of this political and social injustice. He showed, too, in an elaborate historical and statistical argument, that though the penal laws had been still in keeping down the number of Roman Catholics, when we had begun to relax them the proportion between the two bodies had rapidly altered in favour of the Roman Catholics, and the experiment of a State Church, therefore, had entirely failed to propagate Protestantism. Passing to his second and third resolutions, Mr. Gladstone said that their object was to arrest the creation of new vested rights, so that the new constituencies might be more free in finally deciding on the question, and he acknowledged that legislation would be necessary to carry out the resolutions. On this point Mr. Gladstone repudiated in the strongest language the intention of merely projecting into air an "abstract resolution"—a mode of procedure which, he said, had always been mischievous, and for which he never had and never willingly would be responsible. Criticising Lord Stanley's amendment, he argued that it would convey no consolation to the Irish population, that it indicated a desire to agitate the question (which he himself had carefully eschewed, having patiently waited until the hour had come), and that it showed very little respect for the new Parliament, inasmuch as it declined to remove out of its way considerations which must embarrass it in dealing practically with the question. Dealing next with the argument that this concession would not pacify the Roman Catholics, Mr. Gladstone entered into an historical retrospect to show that all our concessions to Ireland had been the effect of apprehensions; and, after examining the character, the circumstances, and the causes of the present crisis, he concluded in an elegant peroration by exhorting the House to assist in building up, "by the cement of human concord, the noble fabric of the British empire."

Lord STANLEY moved, as an amendment—"That this House, while admitting that considerable modifications in the temporalties of the United Church in Ireland may, after the pending inquiry, appear to be expedient, is of opinion that any proposition tending to the disestablishment or disendowment of that Church ought to be reserved for the decision of a new Parliament." He commenced by echoing Mr. Gladstone's condemnation of a resort to trickery, more particularly as he foresaw that great efforts would be made to put the question on a false issue. Mr. Gladstone's resolutions—though his speech said much—said nothing about disendowment; and he objected to them, first of all, because they were too general, shadowed out no practical plan, and might be construed in any sense. Those who meant by disestablishment the release of the Church from State control might accept the resolutions with the reservation that they should retain the endowment. The resolutions avoided all the real difficulties of the case, and gave no inkling of the manner in which the process of disestablishment was to be effected. But the real question, Lord Stanley said, was not whether anything should be done, but what was the particular thing to be done. Not one educated man out of a hundred ("and I," Lord Stanley said, "am not the one") would maintain that the ecclesiastical establishment of Ireland was all that it should be, or that there were no scandals in it; but those who called for a disturbance of the existing state of things were under an obligation to indicate some practical solution. Lord Stanley discussed next the numerous plans suggested for the disposal of the property of the Irish Church, remarking that at present public opinion could not see its way to the practicability of any one of them; and he maintained that Mr. Gladstone's resolutions merely came to this—that something must be done, without saying what it was. Even if the resolutions were carried, what was to be done then? There could be no legislation this year, except that required to carry out the two last resolutions, which was no legislation at all. They might pledge this Parliament, which must come to an end almost immediately, but they could not pledge the new constituencies, who must, as a matter of course, take up this question first of all. Reiterating his objections to the unpractical character of the resolutions and the impossibility of taking action on them now, or of pledging the Parliament of the future, Lord Stanley deprecated this particular mode of raising the question—appealing to the experience of the Appropriation Clause and the Reform Resolution of 1859, and insinuating that the real object of the Opposition was to get a good electioneering cry. Disclaiming all desire to taunt either Mr. Gladstone or the Liberal party with inconsistency (for on that head each side required allowance to be made), he condemned strongly a change so sudden as the present, which would not wait for the necessary business of the Session to be completed, but called for a resolution to which no practical effect could avowedly be given, and about the details of which its supporters would inevitably disagree the moment they began to carry them out. As to this being the message of peace to Ireland, would it be so received in the north? On the contrary, it would produce bitterness and animosity; and he denied that it would conciliate the Roman Catholic peasantry, who regarded as of greater importance the land and the education questions. Lord Stanley concluded by defending his amendment, the meaning of which was that the work of the Session was sufficient for the Session. Whenever action was necessary the Government would not be unprepared for it; but action now was impossible, and the Government objected to pledging in any way the judgment of the next Parliament.

The debate was continued by Mr. E. A. Leathem, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Pollard-Urqhart, Mr. B. Cochrane, and Mr. Moncreiff.

Lord CRANBORNE, anticipating that there would be future opportunities for discussing the principles of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, proposed to examine Lord Stanley's reasons for delay; but avowed a warm and decided approval of the principle of Establishments, and pledged himself not to desert it even in this hour of extremity. He doubted whether the result aimed at, in this case, would be worth the sacrifice; for peace could not be attained in Ireland by irritating and insulting the feelings of one third of the population—the wealthiest and the most influential. Commenting in a tone of remarkable bitterness on Lord Stanley's amendment—which he described as "a more than Delphic resolution"—and expressing his deep disappointment that a principle had not been laid down on which the Conservative party could fight and appeal to the tribunal of public opinion, Lord Cranborne complained that it gave no clue to the policy of the Ministers. No amount of disestablishment or disendowment was excluded by this amendment; nor, remembering the events of last year, could the declarations of any subordinate Minister give a satisfactory pledge for the course of their erratic leader. In 1865 Lord Stanley had seconded a resolution which, like this, made general admissions

and pleaded for delay, and the end of it was household suffrage. And so he predicted the result of carrying this amendment would be that, next year, perhaps, the Irish Protestant members would find themselves voting humbly with Mr. Disraeli for the disestablishment of the Irish Church. This ambiguity of the amendment indicated either no policy at all or a policy which the Ministry was afraid to avow—to quote Mr. Osborne's phrase last year, it was a "cross fishing" move, intended to sweep both sides of the House; and he strongly condemned such a system of management as unworthy of the House of Commons and degrading to the functions of the Executive. Though ready to meet the resolutions with a plain straightforward negative, he refused to support an amendment the object of which was merely to gain time, and to enable the Government to keep the cards in their hands for another year to shuffle as they pleased.

The House, having been addressed by Mr. Laing, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Lawson, the debate, on the motion of Mr. Secretary Hardy, was adjourned.

THE MUTINY BILL.

On the Mutiny Bill Lord ELCHO made an unsuccessful attempt to restore to the preamble the words struck out the other night, declaring that our Army is maintained "for the preservation of the balance of power in Europe," and the Marine Mutiny Bill was amended in conformity with the amendment carried the other night by Mr. Otway on the Mutiny Bill, by the insertion of the proviso that marines on shore shall not be liable to corporal punishment in time of peace.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Mutiny Bill and the Marine Mutiny Bill were brought from the Commons and read the first time. The Railways (Extension of Time) Bill was read the third time and passed; the Indian Railway Companies' Bill went through Committee; and the Consolidated Fund (£600,000) Bill, and the London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Bill were read the second time.

On the motion of the Earl of MALMESBURY, and after discussion, a new standing order was agreed to, that the practice of calling for proxies on a division should be discontinued, and, to prevent the order being lightly suspended, that twice the usual length of notice should be given of any motion for its suspension.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

After the Mutiny Bills had been read the third time and passed, the adjourned debate on the Irish Church was resumed by

Mr. HARDY, who commenced by referring to Lord Cranborne's attack, and, amid loud cheers from the Ministerial benches, reminded him that he had gone with his late colleagues a long way on the path of Reform, last year, and had fallen away not on the lowering of the franchise, but on the question of "checks," which were defeated not merely by the Opposition but by a large body of the Conservative party; and he taunted him with having himself deserted principle for expediency, in the matter of church rates.

Dealing next with Mr. Gladstone's assumption of consistency, he retorted that, whatever his secret opinions might have been for the last twenty-five years, his public professions were all in favour of the Irish Church. As a comment on his claim to have warned his constituents, in 1865, that his mind was changing, he read a passage from a letter (the genuineness of which Mr. Gladstone, though challenged, did not deny), written during his last contest at Oxford, in which he had spoken of the Irish Church question being remote, and not likely to be one of practical politics for some time to come. Mr. Gladstone's change, therefore, was unexpected, and had taken the whole country by surprise. Passing to the main question, Mr. Hardy—admitting, at the outset, the competence of this Parliament—maintained that the Irish Church was part of the compact of the Act of the Union, that its abolition would alienate the Irish Protestants, and that there was no emergency calling for such a sacrifice. He controverted seriatus the arguments of Mr. Gladstone that it would not injure Protestantism, would be no invasion of the rights of property, and would not lead to an assault on the English Church; and, criticising the resolutions, he objected that they gave no hint of the plan of disestablishment; that they said nothing about what was to be done with the confiscated revenues; and that they held out no hope that they would effect the pacification of Ireland. They were vague, precipitate, untimely, unsettled everything and settled nothing, and the censure of the House of Lords ought to be asked before proceeding further on this dangerous and revolutionary path. Explaining the intentions of the Government, Mr. Hardy said that if the amendment were defeated they would oppose the resolutions. As to the future, though they would give no pledge, if the Commission of Inquiry into the revenues of the Irish Church showed changes and modifications in the Establishment to be necessary they would make them fearlessly and indifferently. Further than that, Mr. Hardy, speaking for himself, said with great emphasis, amid loud cheering, he would not go. He would be no party to the disestablishment of the Irish Church, or, if he changed his opinions, he would prove his sincerity by resigning his post.

Mr. GOSCHEN commented on the difference in the tone of Mr. Hardy's and Lord Stanley's speeches, and, replying to some of Mr. Hardy's arguments, insisted that the Church held her property by a Parliamentary title only, with which Parliament could deal at any time. It had been very seriously dealt with, in fact, when 25 per cent of the Church revenues was given to the landlords by way of commission. As to the timeliness of the resolution, it was brought forward now as a pledge of the sincerity of the Liberal party, which was determined to fight the question on its merits. Mr. Hardy's argument that these resolutions must lead to an attack on the English Church he characterized as immoral and pusillanimous.

The debate was continued by several hon. members, who were succeeded by Mr. BRIGHT, who commenced by remarking on the considerable change, if not of view, at least of expression, which had characterised the debate. Even Lord Cranborne had seemed to admit that the time was near at hand for surrendering his cherished principle of an Establishment, while the Government spoke with a different voice from night to night. Mr. Hardy—in a speech which Mr. Bright complimented highly—had answered Lord Stanley, and on Thursday, probably, Mr. Disraeli would answer Mr. Hardy. This was the result of Government by a minority, or the inconveniences of which Mr. Bright dwelt with great felicity. The result was confusion and chaos; there was really neither Government nor Opposition—the Ministerialists could neither support their own views nor adopt those of the Opposition. Passing to the main question, Mr. Bright pointed out that the disestablishment, which had been described as a "revolution," only affected 700,000 people, or 100,000 families, about the population of Liverpool or Manchester, and if this change were effected the Irish Protestants would only be left in the same position as the majority of the Scotch people, nearly all the Welsh people, half the English people, and the whole of our colonists. There were only two pretences on which a State Church could be justified—religious and political. As a religious institution for the conversion of Roman Catholics the Irish Church had been a deplorable failure. Indeed, it had made the Irish Catholics of Ireland more intensely Roman than in any other county, and the political influence of Rome Mr. Bright held to be a great calamity. As a political institution it had been equally a failure; for, through the State for years had defended it by the sword, the present condition of Ireland was anarchy subdued by force. This change, Mr. Bright asserted (met with a few faint denials), was desired by an influential and wise minority of Irish Protestants. From peer to peasant the Roman Catholics were unanimous in its favour, and the people of England and Scotland would eagerly welcome this great act of atonement for past errors. If such evils had been produced in any of our colonies by a State Church Parliament would have abolished it at once. As to any danger to the Church of England, her greatest enemy was not the Liberation Society, but zeal—the chief peril of all establishments—which developed in Ritualism or Evangelism. As long as she preserved internal harmony the boldest prophet would not predict the day of her downfall. Reasoning gently with the Ministerialists, Mr. Bright endeavoured to persuade them that this disestablishment was not more serious than free trade, reform, and other changes which they had once resisted and had since found to be mere hobgoblins, and, after an emphatic and significant disclaimer of party and personal motives, he concluded with an eloquent exhortation to them not to close their ears to moderate counsels, and not to increase the discontent of Ireland and play the game of the Fenians by refusing this great act of justice.

The debate was then adjourned, on the motion of Mr. ROEBUCK.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The programme of business was comparatively commonplace, consisting mainly of resuscitated measures of last year. Thus, Mr. Hadfield easily got the second reading of his Religious Buildings (Sites) Bill; and the now thrice-told measure of Sir Colman O'Loughlin, which changes the law of libel so far as to make speakers reported in newspapers personally liable, instead of the publishers, once more got through its second stage, after some contention, not uniformly hostile. Then, Mr. McCullagh Torrens's bill about artisans' and labourers' dwellings was taken in Committee and fully considered.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER introduced the bill of the Government for permitting the Postmaster-General to acquire the electric telegraphs of the country. Unfortunately, the right hon. gentleman had not time to explain fully the provisions of the bill. From what he was able to state of them, we gather that the bill gives the Postmaster-General power to purchase any telegraphic system in the country. He need not buy them all at once; but should he only acquire one, the other companies may come in within a year, and compel him to purchase their property at a price to be agreed upon by arbitration. The wires and telegraphing business of those railways which now take messages for the public are to be bought in a similar fashion.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Mutiny Bill and the Marine Mutiny Bill after some discussion were read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A vast number of petitions were presented both for and against the disestablishment of the Irish Church. Mr. ROEBUCK denied that the badge of conquest in Ireland was the support of the Established Church. We were told that we should do nothing until we had disestablished the Irish Church. But he denied that the question between the two countries was that of the Church; and they had been told that if they disendowed the Irish Church they would not grant what the Irish people wanted. He claimed for this Parliament the power to divert the property of the Irish Church, and that there was nothing which this House had established that it had not the power to disestablish. He did not think that the property held by the Irish Church was employed in the best way for the Irish people; and he could not help feeling that the Catholic population was hostile to the English rule in Ireland; but his voice should never be wanting in maintaining the Imperial rule in Ireland, and he thought nothing on earth ought to separate the two islands.

Mr. HENLEY, having referred to Fenianism and its avowed objects, spoke of Mr. Bright's and Mr. Mill's projects—the last as one of rape; the other, seduction; and it was at this time Mr. Gladstone had brought forward his resolutions, which might be described as compound Fenianism. National faith was pledged at the union to the maintenance of the Irish Church. There was nothing in the question before the House likely to pacify Ireland; and, if you could not pacify Ireland, why attempt to do a great wrong. He felt compassion for Mr. Gladstone, who had been carrying the Irish Church, as it were, in his belly, without being able until now to digest it. He believed they were playing into the hands of those who wished to destroy the union; and if he voted for the resolutions, he should feel he was a traitor to his Sovereign, his country, and his God.

General PEEL believed there was no doubt the resolutions had in view the ultimate object of repealing the union, violating the coronation oath, and establishing a republic in Ireland. He denied that the Irish Church was an injustice to the Roman Catholics; they did not pay towards the expense of that church. The title of the Church to its position was valid and unassailable. He had no personal feeling against the Roman Catholics or their religion; he was willing to do equal justice to Roman Catholic and Protestant. Now, although strongly in favour of keeping faith with the Irish Church, he was favourable to any reformation or modification that might be practicable or needed, but before deciding on anything he would wait for the report of the Royal Commission.

Mr. LOWE said the Census of 1861 showed that 78 per cent of Irishmen were Roman Catholics and 12 per cent Church Protestants. No elaborate arguments could add force to that statement of facts. And the case was strengthened by the circumstance that this 12 per cent enjoyed all the revenues connected with religious teaching. The only excuse for an Establishment was that it made people better; but did the Irish Church make the Irish Catholics better, or did it make Protestants more liberal to their fellow-Christians? Was it wise to allow this state of things to exist? The only way to conciliate Ireland was to make the Catholics feel that they were on a perfect equality with Protestants. The peril arising from what was done last year was immensely aggravated by the way the Ministry were conducting the Government of the country. Great and violent changes were likely to ensue from the new policy established, unless they understood and valued the Constitution came forward in its defence. The Government would fail to sustain the Irish Church. That Church had not fulfilled its mission; it had been productive of barrenness, and he said, "Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground?" After a lengthened discussion, the debate was again adjourned.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1868.

HOME TOPICS.

IT is not easy, with the sound of the great battle of the Irish Church echoing in our ears, to give heed to less stirring themes; and yet it is meet that this should be done, for it is not on great subjects alone that this may be called a progressive age. Only a few years ago, who would have believed that the British Parliament, on the motion of a private and not very prominent member, should have decreed the abolition of flogging in the Army in time of peace? And yet this feat has been achieved by Mr. Otway, and Government, as was a necessary and logical consequence, have extended the principle to the Royal Marines. Immunity from the lash must, also as a logical consequence, be extended to sailors, for it would be impossible long to maintain one law for "Jack" and another for his ally, "Pipelay." This is a matter upon which the British public may be heartily congratulated; for a worse use could scarcely be devised to which a man of spirit, though erring, could be put than to make him the subject of so degrading a punishment. When a man has become so hopelessly incorrigible that nothing save the "cat-o'-nine-tails" can affect him, it is high time that her Majesty's service were rid of such a knave. We hope that, for the future, the lash will be reserved for the special use and benefit of garotters and other robbers who, with the cruelty that is always allied to cowardice, accompany their depredations with violence, and who howl the quickest and the loudest when the measure they have meted is meted out to them again. To ruffians of this class we would dispense a liberal, unstinting dose of flogging whenever, as is their wont, they recklessly inflict personal injury for the sake of a trifling booty. Physical pain is the only influence to which they are amenable, and, as they are invariably curs at heart, they feel it keenly. So let them have it, say we; but let us draw a wide distinction between thieves, robbers, and maimers of peaceful citizens, and those to whom is intrusted the defence of the honour and independence of the country, who ought to be, and we believe are, amenable to higher and more worthy influences to recall them to duty, discipline, and propriety of conduct when they happen to stray from the straight path. So we rejoice that the sound of the lash will be no more heard in the barrack-square nor on board ship, and shall henceforth only be seen in the hands of a gaol official and only felt by the most hardened, cowardly, and despicable of criminals.

The debate was then adjourned, on the motion of Mr. ROEBUCK.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The programme of business was comparatively commonplace, consisting mainly of resuscitated measures of last year. Thus, Mr. Hadfield easily got the second reading of his Religious Buildings (Sites) Bill; and the now thrice-told measure of Sir Colman O'Loughlin, which changes the law of libel so far as to make speakers reported in newspapers personally liable, instead of the publishers, once more got through its second stage, after some contention, not uniformly hostile. Then, Mr. McCullagh Torrens's bill about artisans' and labourers' dwellings was taken in Committee and fully considered.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER introduced the bill of the Government for permitting the Postmaster-General to acquire the electric telegraphs of the country. Unfortunately, the right hon. gentleman had not time to explain fully the provisions of the bill. From what he was able to state of them, we gather that the bill gives the Postmaster-General power to purchase any telegraphic system in the country. He need not buy them all at once; but should he only acquire one, the other companies may come in within a year, and compel him to purchase their property at a price to be agreed upon by arbitration. The wires and telegraphing business of those railways which now take messages for the public are to be bought in a similar fashion.

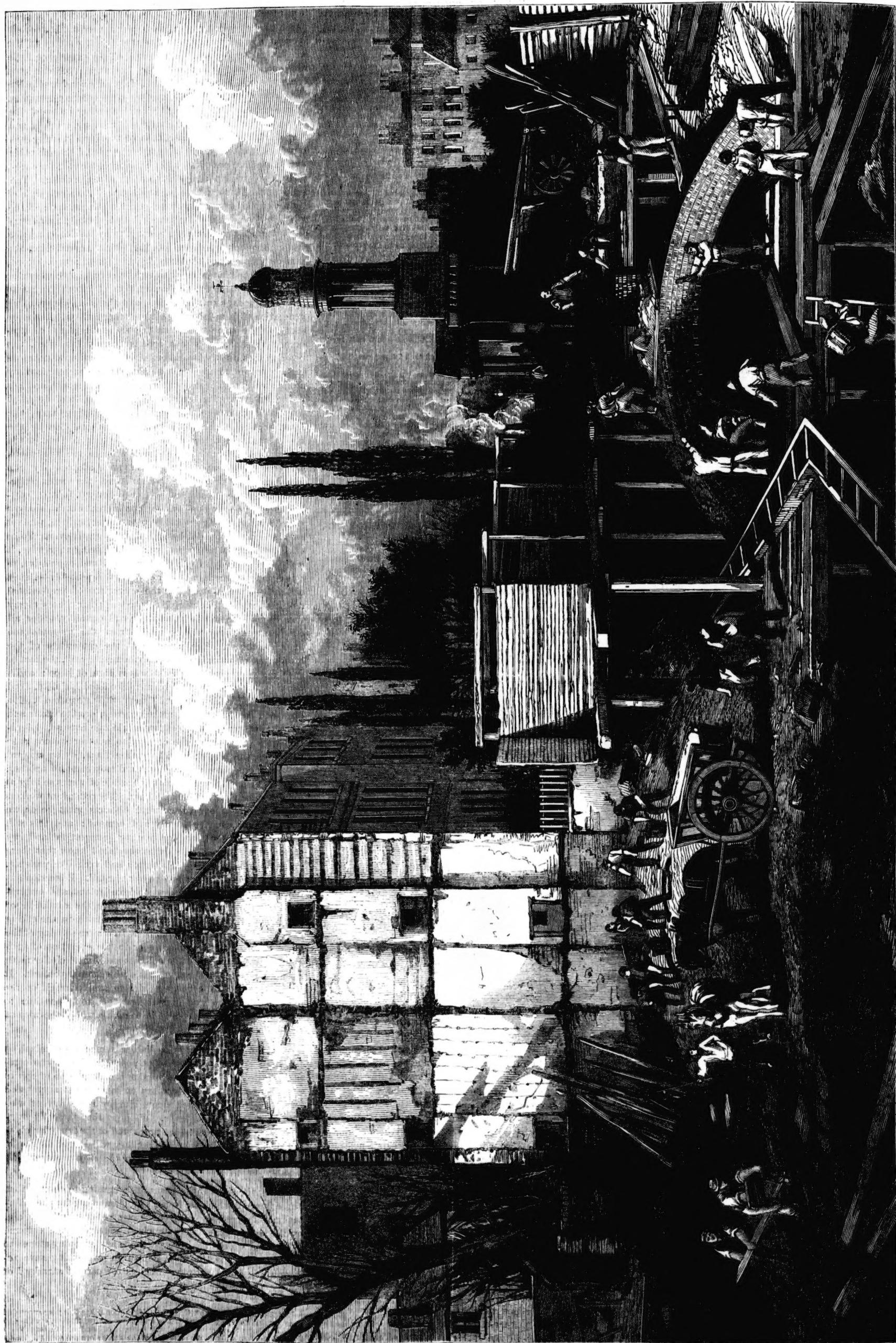
Another indication of progress which we note with satisfaction is the attention that is now being paid to the condition of unskilled labourers generally, and of agricultural labourers in particular. There can be no room for doubt that the condition of our peasant population is very far indeed from what it ought and might be. In this, the richest country in the world, their lot is indeed a hard one. They experience little save penury and privation in the present, and have no hope except the workhouse in the future. They have not shared in the improvement that has attended other classes of the community of late years. While the condition of all other orders of the community who practise the virtues of industry, sobriety, and frugality has mended much, that of the farm labourer has remained stationary, if it has not retrograded. Even in their own immediate pursuit, that of cultivating the soil, improvement has attended the position of all save the toiler. The rents of the landlord have been raised, the profits and style of living of the farmer have been raised, while the state of the labourer has remained the same. Why? Mainly, as it seems to us for two reasons: first, because, from lack of education and consequent ignorance of the world around him, the peasant knows not how to better himself; and, second,

because, from his tendency to vegetate straight on where he happened to be born, the description of labour he has to sell is redundant in the market, and therefore cheap. One generation of farm-labourers after another toils on in the same spots, at the same tasks, for the same wages as its predecessors; and, as is but too frequently his wont, the peasant dies in the workhouse, as his father did before him. Can we wonder that he should be characterised by stolid stupidity, loutish ignorance, boorish manners, and not unfrequently by the brutality that is begotten of despair? Better days, however, we hope, are dawning upon the labourer; and a cheering sign of this is exhibited by the conference held a few days ago on the condition of the agricultural labourer. We doubt whether the resolutions proposed by Canon Girdlestone and adopted by the meeting will prove the wisest and the most effectual remedies that could be devised. An agricultural trades union is, to our mind, but a shallow expedient for raising the peasant to better position, while it may, and probably will, be attended by grave evils. To be effective, it must be aggressive; and, in being aggressive, it will be very likely to become tyrannical and oppressive, as other trades unions have. Moreover, it will probably—almost certainly—open a door for the operations of professional agitators, who will be more likely to lead their clients astray than to guide them wisely, and who will certainly, under all circumstances, levy "black mail" from the peasants' too scanty earnings. The presence at the conference of the high priest of unionism was of evil omen. Still, the fact of such a conference being held was a sign of hope; and a cause that is taken in hand by men like Lord Lichfield, Lord Northbrook, Mr. Fawcett, and Canon Girdlestone must, with open and free discussion, make progress, despite errors and mistakes at starting—at least, we would fain hope so. Migration from one part of the country to another cannot raise wages, on the whole; it will equalise them, by an upward motion in one place and a downward movement in another. Farmers generally will not raise the scale of wages so long as they can hire plenty of cheap labour. The redundant workers in the whole of our agricultural districts must be drawn off, so as to equalise supply and demand; and this will best be attained by encouraging emigration and by educating the peasantry, so that they shall know that there are other places besides Halberton and such like parishes, where men may labour and live by their toil. Education has done much to promote emigration from Ireland, and emigration has done a great deal to improve the condition of the Irish peasant. We have much more faith in the effects of like influences in England than in a mere shifting of the agricultural population at home or in the operation of agricultural trades unions. The colonies and America offer fields specially adapted to the exertions of the English peasant. It would be wiser to encourage him to avail himself of the opportunities offered to him abroad than to induce him to trust for bettering his condition to such a will-o'-the-wisp as trades unions.

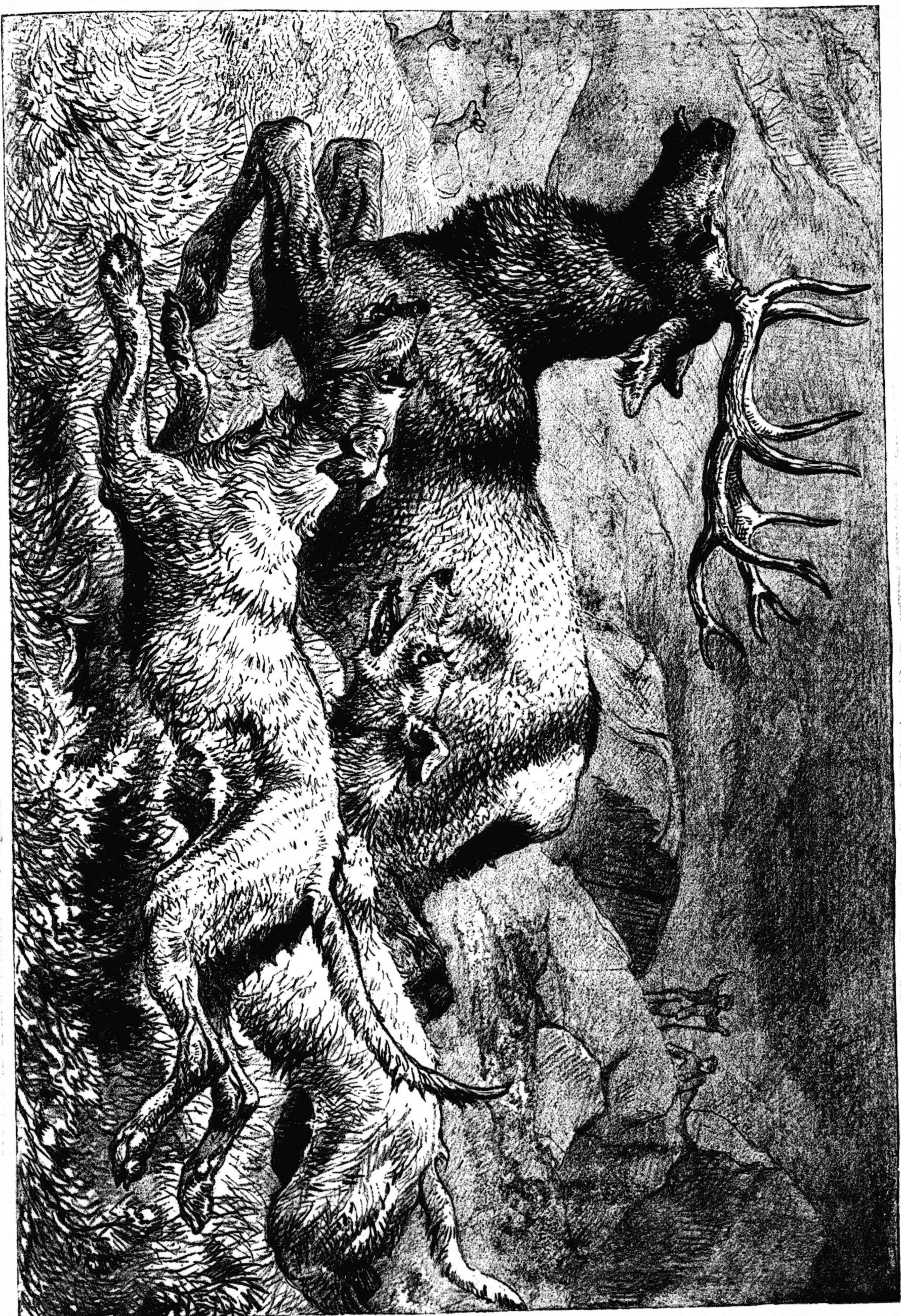
Practical joking, always foolish, is sometimes criminal, as has been proved by the fate of poor Mr. Clarke, who committed suicide the other day under the depression of spirits caused by unmerited pecuniary embarrassment aggravated by a silly joke practised upon him by some persons who called themselves his friends. We hope that these "gentlemen"—save the mark!—are now cured of the fancy for playing such fantastic tricks, and that they will labour diligently for the rest of their lives to restrain the silly propensity in others.

Noting the signs of the times, it is amusing to observe that those journals which are loudest in clamouring for the maintenance of what they call "our Protestant institutions," are, at the same time, the stanchest champions of extreme Ritualism, which has proved an easy stepping-stone to Popery—which is, in fact, Popish in everything save relinquishing Protestant pay. Such is the current standard of consistency!

IN THE INNER TEMPLE GARDENS Mr. Broome has this year succeeded in producing a display of hyacinths and other spring flowers, such as one could hardly have expected to find in the centre of London. The large vases on the principal walk and the beds on the grass slope are well filled with hyacinths, among which Belle Corinne and Robert Steiger (pink), Queen Victoria and Grand Vainqueur (white), and Charles Dickens and Baron Von Tuyll (blue), may be particularly mentioned.



THE MARYLEBONE JUNCTION OF THE ST. JOHN'S WOOD AND METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS.



"STAG-HUNTING."—(DRAWN BY HARRISON WEIR.)

JUNCTION OF THE METROPOLITAN AND ST. JOHN'S-WOOD RAILWAY.

THE actual junction of the rails occurs under the Marylebone-road, about 100 yards east of the Baker-street station; and, owing to the immense traffic on the Metropolitan Railway, its construction was necessarily a slow and difficult work. The arch and northern side wall had to be taken down for a length of 150 ft., and wrought-iron girders introduced to support the roadway above, the girders extending over both lines of railway, and varying in length from 30 ft. to 65 ft., and in weight from 4 tons to 10 tons. Not being allowed under any circumstances to stop the traffic on the Metropolitan Railway, the contractors, Messrs. Lucas and Aird, were restricted to four hours' work a day—that is, between one and five in the morning, being the only interval during which the trains do not run on the Metropolitan Railway—for the removal of the arch and side walls, building new side walls, and fixing girders in position. They were even then liable to interruption at any time by ballast-trains running for the repair and maintenance of the railway below. The time allowed by the parish of St. Marylebone for the closing of the Marylebone-road was three months; and at the end of that period the whole of the junction, excluding the laying of the rails, was completed and the road above restored, without the occurrence of any accident.

Following the course of the St. John's-wood Railway, six houses facing the Marylebone road had to be taken down and the ground excavated to an average depth of 28 ft. The ground on the west side of the railway is kept up by a heavy concrete wall, faced with brickwork, which also serves to support a house which abuts on the station. There is a passage communication between the Baker-street stations of the Metropolitan Railway and of the Metropolitan and St. John's-wood Railway for the interchange of passengers. The trains from St. John's-wood will, however, run direct through to the City.

The work has been pushed on day and night for the last four months; and during that time 60,000 cubic yards of earth have been removed, and about 4000 cubic yards of brickwork and concrete used in the construction of this portion of the railway.

There still remains some portion of the station to be completed; but it is expected that the line will be open and passenger-trains running in the course of this month, which will be a great boon to the inhabitants of St. John's-wood, shortening the duration and increasing the comfort of the journey to and from the City.

STAG-HUNTING.

WE have the reputation of being a sporting nation; but it is doubtful how long that character will continue, for the simple reason that sport is becoming every year almost impossible, and is so deteriorating that those who have a real love for it will have to seek it in other countries. The practice of letting "shootings" to the highest bidder, the introduction of the barbarous battue (a foreign innovation, altogether opposed to true sportsman-like instincts), and the transformation of noble landlords into wholesale poulterers, who invite their friends to help them to slaughter the tame pheasants, and regard the "bags" as the killing from a fowl-roost, to be sent to London by the next train for the morning market; all these things have altered the character of sport in this country, and venison has acquired a mutinous flavour, while the pheasant is undistinguishable from the fowl, to whose habits it has been assimilated. One need not say much about this if the result was likely to increase the supply of food to the people; but there is some fear that the mercenary avidity for killing and also for over-production will end in the destruction, or at least in the deterioration, of the animals who are at once the objects of undiscriminating slaughter and of a legal protection which virtually declares all wild creatures, except vermin, to have vanished out of England.

This, by-the-way, is scarcely an inspiring manner of calling attention to our Engraving, which represents one of the most exciting of our national sports; but even the stag-hunt is scarcely what it was or what it should be; and the moors and highlands are every season sought by self-styled sportsmen who have never known a word of woodcraft, and who, fortunately, fire at many things and hit very few.

It is now time to say a word for the stag, for it is the month when he is growing the branching glory of his antlers—when the first velvety shoot comes upon his noble head after shedding the horns of last year. The stag, or hart, differs both in size and in the shape of the horns from the fallow-deer, so often to be seen in parks. He is much larger, and his horns are round; whereas in the fallow species they are broad and palmated. By these the animal's age is estimated. During the first year the stag has no horns, but only a horny excrescence covered with a thin hairy skin; the next year the horns are single and straight; in the third they have two antlers, three the fourth, four the fifth, and five the sixth year. After this the age cannot be reckoned from them. Indeed, this is always an uncertain guide, the age being computed more easily from the size of the antlers and the thickness of the branch that sustains them. The old stags usually shed their horns first, which generally happens towards the latter end of February or the beginning of March; while the younger ones shed theirs in April, and sometimes not till May.

The stag-hound is, as may be supposed, the largest and most powerful of the dogs known by the name of hounds in this country; and, indeed, he requires some force to pull down his game, with whom he and his fellows often have a desperate conflict; for a stag at bay is no contemptible adversary, and is possessed of a sort of desperate courage, which would fight even a tiger to the last, and has been known to do so. It was William, Duke of Cumberland, who had a stag placed in a cage with a fighting tiger. The cage was 15 ft. high, and was placed on a lawn by the roadside during the Ascot Race week. The tiger was led into the arena by a couple of blacks, and the stag was waiting for him—waiting so warily that, though the huge catlike brute crept along as softly and as stealthily as a shadow, the formidable antlers deterred him from making a spring, and he never succeeded in turning the flank of his opponent, who wheeled and faced him, and kept him at bay until the sport grew tedious, when, in obedience to his Royal Highness, the tiger was irritated; but, instead of springing on the stag, leaped clear out of the inclosure, burst into a wood opposite, and seized a fallow deer, the hind quarter of which he kept in his teeth while his keepers hooed him and led him away. The stag-hounds, however, act in concert, and are such large, strong, and bony animals that a pack of them can pull down the forest monarch, and the well-trained buck-hounds will hold him without doing him any serious injury. Of course, this refers to the chase, when a deer is ridden out of the herd for the purpose of being pursued by the dogs and huntsmen. But a deer is not the same as a wild stag, though a strong deer will afford a very long and exciting chase before the dogs catch him, seize him by the neck or the ears, and hold him till the keepers come up, strap his hind and fore legs together, and consign him to a cart. This, however, is not hunting the stag in the sense of our illustration. That is a more exciting and a more natural sport; one which has afforded many subjects for the artist and will probably furnish many more.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—By a telegram from Sir R. Napier, dated Antalo, March 9, we learn that the head-quarters were to start from that place for Lake Ashangi two days later, hoping to reach it on March 16. This news may be considered decidedly satisfactory, as it indicates that stores had come up to the front, and supplies had come in from the country, thereby permitting the advance of the main body at an earlier date than most people seemed to expect. It also confirms that of previous telegrams, which calculated on the head-quarters reaching Ashangi by the middle of March. As Ashangi is between sixty and seventy miles from Antalo, it will be observed that the calculated rate of advance is about eleven miles a day; and, allowing the same rate of advance, after a rest at Ashangi similar to that at Antalo, the head-quarters should at this present time have joined the Wagshum Gobeye between Lalibala and Sanka, where, probably, another considerable halt will take place to allow of the ceremonies of meeting and visiting, and to make arrangements for advancing over the final stage of from forty to fifty miles to Magdala, by the direct route. We also learn by the telegram that up to Feb. 17 Theodore was on the plateau of Taita, where it is expected he will remain until the near approach of our troops warns him that it is time to get within his stronghold. It is again permitted us to learn that the captives are all well, and that the health and circumstances of the force are all that could be desired.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, with Princesses Louisa and Beatrice, arrived in town on Monday evening, and proceeded to Buckingham Palace to remain for the week. On Wednesday evening the Queen held a Drawing-room, which was numerously attended.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES has expressed her intention, should the state of her health admit, of accompanying the Prince of Wales when his Royal Highness presides at the inauguration of the Fine Art Exhibition at Leeds.

PRINCE HUMBERT, after the marriage fêtes at Florence and in other cities of Italy, it is stated, to go to Naples, where he will hold a Court.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH attains the age of sixty on the 20th inst.

HER MAJESTY'S FRIGATE GALATEA, captain the Duke of Edinburgh, is proceeding from Australia to the Pacific and West India Islands.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE will preside at the annual dinner of the News-paper Press Fund on Saturday, June 6, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's.

THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT was opened, on the 16th ult., by the Viceroy, who delivered a speech in Arabic. The delegates were engaged in drawing up a reply to his Highness's speech.

THE MAYOR OF PORTSMOUTH has invited the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of London to become his guests at the Easter Monday volunteer review; and has placed a handsome suite of apartments at their disposal, at Southsea. Lord Bury and the officers of the Civil Service corps will entertain the Mayor of Portsmouth to dinner, at the Southsea Pier Hotel.

MR. S. D. FOULKES, who has been for sixteen years managing clerk to the Wolverhampton County Court, has been promoted with upwards of £1000.

JOHN MCPHERSON, third mate of the Tornado, and the last of her crew detained as prisoners in Spain, has been liberated by the Spanish authorities after nineteen months of captivity.

THE CAPITAL SENTENCE on Thompson and Mullady, the Manchester Fenian convicts, has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

THE PROPOSITIONS submitted to the Papal See by the Austrian Ambassador, Count Crivelli, with reference to the revision of the Concordat, have been met on all and every point with a decided *non possumus*.

MR. MASSEY'S INDIAN BUDGET proposes an extraordinary expenditure of £1,700,000 for public works. The amount is covered by the surplus of the present year and the unexpended balance of the irrigation loan.

THE PRUSSIAN CORVETTES HERTHA AND MEDUSA, which are to leave China in a month, are to carry out an old intention of the Prussian Cabinet, and occupy some island in those distant seas, to serve as a naval station of the Confederacy.

THE HOME SECRETARY has issued a circular to the effect that the engagement of the special constables having in many cases expired it is not considered necessary to extend the period. On the whole, Mr. Hardy has reason to believe that the special constables recently enrolled, and in number exceeding 113,674, have been organised upon a footing of readiness and efficiency never before attained, and that the spirit of loyalty and determination thus evinced has been of material public service.

THE MANX LEGISLATURE has resolved to expend a sum not to exceed £175,000 in harbour works at Douglas; but no definite plan has yet been determined upon.

THE INHABITANTS OF ALTON have subscribed funds for a neat headstone to the grave of the girl Fanny Adams, who was so brutally murdered by Frederick Baker. The headstone was placed in the cemetery on Saturday last.

THE FIRST STONE OF THE KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD, founded in memory of the author of "The Christian Year," is to be laid, on the 25th inst., by the Archibishop of Canterbury. Before the ceremony a sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Oxford, in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. A meeting is to be held in the theatre after the ceremony, at which most of the promoters of the college will deliver addresses.

ABRAHAM AND SIMON OPPENHEIM, the well-known bankers of Cologne, have received patents of nobility from the King of Prussia. It is said to be the first instance of a Jew being ennobled in Prussia.

A PASTORAL FROM CARDINAL CULLEN was read in the Dublin Roman Catholic chapels on Sunday, calling on good Catholics to practise special acts of piety and prayer this week, as the future prospects of Ireland may be seriously affected by the measures now before Parliament regarding the Protestant establishment, educational matters, and protection of the agricultural classes.

MR. WHITWORTH, the well-known engineer of Manchester, has intimated to the Government his readiness to place in the hands of trustees a sum sufficient to provide £100 a year for thirty young men who have passed a satisfactory examination in subjects of "technical education."

THE POSTMEN are preparing a petition to the House of Commons for a Parliamentary inquiry into their grievances. The petition calls attention to the insufficiency of the pay of the sorters, stampers, carriers, and rural messengers, the slowness of their promotion, and the necessity for the entire abolition of Sunday work. It has already received more than 50,000 signatures.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES have taken place in Belgium, in the coal districts of Charleroi, in consequence of a strike of the colliers. At Chanteloup a Lieutenant of the gendarmerie was seriously wounded. At Montigny ten or twelve rioters were killed or wounded. Troops having been dispatched to the spot, quiet has been restored. Ten persons have been killed.

THE AYLESBURY MAGISTRATES last Saturday, at their annual session for the appointment of parish officers for the several parishes in their division, appointed Mrs. Sarah Wooster to the offices of overseer of the poor and surveyor of highways for the parish of Ilmire, there being no other "person" resident there so well qualified to perform the duties. Last year the same magistrates appointed no fewer than four women to similar posts.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF ARCHES in the Ritual cases of "Martin v. Mackenzie" and "Flamank v. Simpson," which it took Sir R. Philimore four hours and twenty minutes to read on Saturday, is in favour of the use of lighted canons on the altar during celebration of the holy communion, and against the elevation of the elements, the censing of persons and things, and the mixed chalice. Each party have to pay their own costs in the St. Alban's case, and, in the other, Mr. Simpson is ordered to pay £80 *nominis expensam*.

THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS continues, and volumes of smoke and fire now issue from an opening at the base of the mountain. The present eruption has continued longer than that of any recorded in modern times. According to a letter I have received from Naples, Italian and foreigners continue to arrive in that city expressly for the purpose of witnessing this interesting phenomenon.

THE REVENUE RETURNS for the quarter just concluded were issued on Tuesday. There has been during that period an increase in the revenue derived from customs of £20,000; excise, £207,000; property tax, £911,000; taxes, £25,000; and Crown lands, £800; and a decrease under two heads only—viz., stamps, £56,000, and miscellaneous, £178,297; leaving a net increase on the quarter of £936,703. The gross receipts of the quarter amounted to £19,378,574, and of the year to £69,434,568.

AS A TRAIN WAS MOVING, last Saturday evening, from the Blackfriars station of the Charing-cross Railway, a passenger got into a carriage, leaving the door open. A porter named George Hibert ran after the train and endeavoured to shut the door; but in doing so he was thrown down, and fell between the platform and the train, and the wheels passed over his body, mutilating him in a frightful manner. The poor man was immediately conveyed to Guy's Hospital, where he expired shortly afterwards. An inquest was held on the body on Monday night, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

CAB LAW.—Judgment was given, on Wednesday, in the City of London Court, in an action of some importance to cabmen and their customers. A cabman was sued for £17 11s., the value of a portmanteau and its contents, which had been stolen from his cab through his neglecting to fasten it with the chain kept for the purpose. The cabman pleaded that in setting up his guard behind the portmanteau he had taken proper precautions for his safety. Mr. Commissioner Kerr held that, as the chain was on the defendant's cab and he had not used it, he had been guilty of such negligence as rendered him liable for the loss, and he was ordered to pay the value of the portmanteau, with costs.

A STRANGE LEGACY.—A more extraordinary legacy than that bequeathed to his fellow-citizens by Father la Loque cannot well be imagined. At his death his body was found stretched on a miserable bed in an attic of the Quartier de Grenelle, which is anything but a fashionable district of Paris. He was an old man, had lived in the simplest way, sustaining himself almost entirely on bread. His room contained hardly any furniture, yet in a corner was found a little cupboard with numerous shelves, and on these were sorted with the greatest order regiments of corks. In the centre was a manuscript written by the Père la Loque, on which he stated that he had formerly been in possession of considerable wealth, now squandered; that of all his greatness there remained but these corks, drawn in better times to welcome many a friend who now had forgotten him; that age and ruin had taught their moral, and that on each cork would be found written its history. This old man did, hoping that it would serve as a timely warning; and that, placed on the shelves of some museum or of a philosopher's study, they might be found to illustrate human nature. On one of the corks was an inscription to this effect:—"C. ampaque cork; bottle emptied May 12, 1815, with M. B.—, who wished to interest me in a business by which I was to make ten millions. This affair cost me 50,000f. M. B.—escaped to Belgium. A caution to amateurs." On another appears the following note:—"Cork of Cyprus wine, of bottle emptied on Dec. 4, 1850, with a dozen fast friends. Of these I have not found a single one to help me on the day of my ruin. The names of the twelve are annexed below."—Once a Week.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

BEFORE this paper shall have got into the hands of your readers it is next to certain that Lord Stanley's amendment will have disappeared, either by withdrawal or by defeat by a large majority. Some say that the majority, if the question should be decided by a division, will be as large as forty-eight. I will venture to prophesy, though the decision is so near, that it will be over forty. If the House should get into Committee before Easter—questionable this, whilst I am writing—I suspect that the majority for the first and second resolutions will be about thirty-five. For the others, not quite so large. But all this, if the House should go into Committee before the Easter holidays, will be known before your Paper appears. The air is full of impalpable rumours as to the future of the Ministry—rumours that Lord Stanley is to resign; that the public offices are preparing for a dissolution; that Disraeli will neither dissolve nor resign. If, though, Stanley retires, the Government must go. Lord Stanley, men say, at heart wishes to abolish the Irish Church; but is hindered by party and family ties. In reflecting upon the probable future conduct of his Lordship, one must not forget that Lord Derby has Church patronage to the annual value of £15,000.

At present (Thursday morning) there has been only one speech of any power delivered on the Conservative side. Stanley's was a failure; but Hardy's was a great success. It was far away the best speech that he ever made. He was smarting under the whip and spurs of Lord Cranborne, and his blood was up. All the rest of the speeches on that side were exceedingly poor, especially that which we had from Mr. Warren, the new Irish Attorney-General, who so far lost his self-command as more than once or twice to address the House as "Gentlemen," instead of addressing the Speaker. Mr. Warren is a poor, thin, windysort of a man, with a loud voice and the action of a dancing-master. But it is not surprising that the Government cannot get a more efficient law officer; for they have literally used up the Irish Bar in the manufacture of Judges. Under the gallery, whilst poor Warren was chattering, and maunding, and jumping about in the most curious fashion, sat Judges Keogh, Fitzgerald, and Whieside, all famous old Parliamentary combatants; and no doubt they all thought how much better they could have done it, as, in truth, they could. Bishops, English and Irish, have been as plentiful as blackberries. I never saw such a rookery of them before.

Mr. Disraeli's "Vivian Grey" is a remarkable book; perhaps, considering that it was written by "a boy" of twenty years old, the most remarkable of modern books. But its most curious feature is that there is much in it that illustrates and explains the author's subsequent career, and some few passages that seem to be prophetic. Here is one of them:—"But, aside with joking, Grey," the author makes Cleveland say, "I really think that if any man of average ability dare arise in the House and rescue many of the great questions of the day from what Dugald Stuart or Disraeli (his father) would call the spirit of *political religionism* with which they are studiously mixed up, he would not fail to make a great impression upon the House, and a still greater one upon the country." Has not the author since then rescued some questions from political religionism? Has Disraeli since he wrote the following ever been made to feel its truth? I fancy he has, and that some day he may feel it again. "Never for a moment suppose you can accomplish your object by coming forward uninvited to fight the battle of a party. They will cheer your successful exertions, and then smile at your youthful zeal; or, crossing themselves for your unexpected succour, be too cowardly to reward their unexpected champion. No, Grey; make them fear you, and they will kiss your feet. There is no act of treachery or meanness of which a political party is incapable; for in politics there is no honour." Has anything resembling this been seen in the British House of Commons of late years? I imagine that I have seen something very like it. "If the younger son or brother of a peer dare to sully his oratorical virginity by a chance observation in the Lower Chamber, the Minister, himself a real orator, immediately rises to congratulate in pompous phrase the House and the country on the splendid display which has made the night memorable, and on the decided advantages which must accrue, both to their own resolutions and the national interests, from the participation of his noble friend in their deliberations. All about the Minister are young nobles, quite unfit for the discharge of their duties. The secondary officials can hardly be trusted even in the least critical junctures; but they are noble. And the Prime Minister of a powerful empire is forced to rise early and be up late—not to meditate on the present fortunes or the future destinies of his country, but by his personal exertions to compensate for the inefficiency and expiate the blemishes of his underlings, whom his unfortunate want of blood has forced to overwhelm with praise which they do not deserve and duties which they cannot perform." Is there no Prime Minister of a powerful country to whom it might be said, The story is told of you?

The following characteristic anecdote will probably be interesting to many readers who are not in a position to peruse the printed proceedings of the Royal Institution. Professor Tyndall, in a lecture recently delivered by him "On Faraday as a Discoverer," speaking of himself, says:—"In 1855 I was appointed examiner under the Council for Military Education. At that time, as, indeed, now, I entertained strong convictions as to the enormous utility of physical science to officers of artillery and engineers, and, whenever opportunity offered, I expressed this conviction without reserve. I did not think the recognition, though considerable, accorded to physical science in those examinations at all proportionate to its importance, and this probably rendered me more jealous than I otherwise should have been of its claims. In Trinity College, Dublin, a school had been organised with reference to the Woolwich examinations, and a large number of exceedingly well-instructed young gentlemen were sent over from Dublin to compete for appointments in the artillery and engineers. The result of one examination was particularly satisfactory to me; indeed, the marks obtained appeared so eloquent that I forbore saying a word about them. My colleagues, however, followed the usual custom of sending in brief reports with their returns of marks. After the results were published, a leading article appeared in the *Times*, in which the reports were largely quoted, praise being bestowed on all the candidates except the excellent young fellows who had passed through my hands. A letter from Trinity College drew my attention to this article, bitterly complaining that, whereas the marks proved them to be the best of all, the science candidates were wholly ignored. I tried to set matters right by publishing on my own responsibility a letter in the *Times*. The act I knew could not bear justification from the War Office point of view, and I expected and risked the displeasure of my superiors. The merited reprimand promptly came. Highly as the Secretary of State for War might value the expression of Professor Tyndall's opinion, he begged to say that an examiner appointed by H. R. H. the Commander-in-Chief had no right to appear in the public papers as Professor Tyndall has done without the sanction of the War Office. Nothing could be more just than this reproof, but I did not like to rest under it. I wrote a reply, and previous to sending it, took it up to Faraday. We sat together before his fire, and he looked very earnest as he rubbed his hands and pondered. The following conversation then passed between us:

this liberal treatment, proving, as it did, that Lord Panmure could discern and make allowance for a good intention, though it involved an offence against routine. For many years subsequently it was my privilege to act under that excellent body, the Council for Military Education." The above extract is taken from the report of Professor Tyndall's lecture published for circulation amongst the members of the Royal Institution, and needs no comment; in fact, it speaks volumes for the spirit not only of Faraday, but of his distinguished pupil and friend.

An exhibition on a large scale of Gustave Doré's latest works is announced to be held in London this season. Meantime, those who have not yet seen Doré's great paintings at the Egyptian Hall should hasten to do so before their removal, as is contemplated, to the United States.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

Some time ago I reviewed in your columns Mr. St. John's 'Life and Letters' of the late F. W. Robertson, of Brigton, and pointed out some small errors or deficiencies in the book. For instance, I observed that the quotation on page 332 (new edition) which Mr. Robertson assigns to Mr. Helpis, is from the last page of Hawthorne's 'Scarlet Letter.' I also observed that there was no such book as 'The Endeavours after a Christian Life,' the real title of Mr. Martinet's work being 'Endeavours after the Christian Life.' I think I also observed that I did not remember any book of Auguste Comte called 'Anticipations of the Future' (page 304), and that the capital letters and inverted commas were probably a mistake. None of these little matters are attended to in the new edition, and I may add that at the description of the portrait of Robertson (chapter 13) is totally inapplicable to the portrait given in that edition, to which it was, of course, never intended to apply; but for all that, the book is one of much value and deep interest, both as a memoir of a good man of fine genius and as a warning to men of brains not to overwork themselves.

THE MAGAZINES.

"Two Great Cities"—which are New York and San Francisco—are dissected statistically in the *Cornhill* in a paper of an order which is not common in that magazine. "Twenty summers ago San Francisco city had no existence. Now 100,000 living people call themselves Franciscans, and already her foreign commerce is next in importance to that of New York and Boston." Is there no man of ability, with a truthful head and a graphic pen, who has seen the beginning and rise of this new city, and will write the history of its early growth while his memory is fresh? The relations, actual and prospective, of the western edge of North America with Asia are surely a most fascinating topic, affording much room for some conjecture as to details and a little positive prophecy.

Those who want a thrilling ghost-story had better turn to *St. Pauls*, where "W. A." (Mr. William Allingham?) is ready to make their hair stand on end with the "Ballad of Squire Cutis." An article, entitled "The Private Soldier as He is," is one of a class in which (as I have said before) the *St. Pauls* is particularly strong.

"Dreams," in *Tinsley's*, is a readable paper, in which the author says:—"If, as I have endeavoured to show, our dreams are part of ourselves if they are as we are, pure when we are pure sensual when we are sensual, frivolous when we are frivolous—we have in them remarkable facilities for self-inspection." But I am satisfied that this fancy of our dreams being "as we are" in any such sense or degree that we may make a moral touch; one of them is a fancy or more; and I have been, and am, a great dreamer, and have paid anxious attention to the subject. Physical accidents constantly originate dreams, in which neither permanent nor casual tendencies are reflected. It is very rarely indeed that I have a dream which I cannot minutely account for; I mean as to the separate pieces of glass, not as to the shape into which the kaleidoscope arranges them. And some very curious things have befallen me in dreams. I have continued in sleep the series of images or train of argument in the middle of which sleep had overtaken me. I have dreamt new flowers; entirely new and individual faces, a thousand times. I fell asleep the other night thinking of the words that in the Resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God, and dreamed a criticism of the text which was so artful and yet so plausible that it was with difficulty I could persuade myself it had come to me in a dream. Twice in my life I have dreamt small inventions which have proved useful. The only "moral" I have ever lit upon in relation to one's character or conduct and one's dreams, is that a fit of ill-temper, or weak-minded anxiety, is sure to be followed—at all events, in nervous people—by bad dreams.

Belgravia, this month, gives "thirty-two pages extra, for the accommodation" of the opening chapters of "Charlotte's Inheritance." Mr. Salter is at his very best in "Paveterville":—"Mr. Thackeray never began to write upon less than a quire of letter-paper. Half of this he would cover with comic drawings; a fourth he would tear up into minute pieces; and on two or three slips of the remainder he would do his work, walking about the room at intervals, with his hands in his pockets, and with a perched and woe-begone expression of countenance. Some men bite their nails; others stab the sides of their study-chairs with penknives; others tear the fronts of their shirts; others eat blotting paper. . . . The scribblers must be alone." Yes, no doubt, if they want to write well, but the outsider may depend upon it that there are plenty of "scribblers" excitable people, too, who have no lunatic ticks with them whatever while they are writing. But candour compels me to add that I believe these are chiefly people who compose first and write down afterwards. I know one scribbler who is apt to compose in bed before rising, and his sheets present a curious sight; they are bitten into small holes wherever his teeth can get at them. Mr. Scovell contributes one of his always amusing papers, this time on Toilette questions. It is entitled "Beautiful for Ever," and reminds me of a joke, such as it is, which my friend Wogg has just sent me, and which bears the same heading—"BEAUTIFUL FOR EVER." Yes, it is all very well to call that woman Rachel, but why don't they call her Ishtar? N.B. Anyone finding out the joke of this is to be allowed to shed a tear, but no further reward will be offered. Knowing he impudently adds, that I am fond of poetry, Wogg proceeds to offer me what he calls a "PROBLEM." Let it be granted that Othello is dead, that Desdemona is dead, and that Iago is standing at the hymeneal altar with Desdemona. Required—to describe the scene in terms which shall give the name of a fine short weird poem of the present century. Ans. The Ancient Marryin' her. N.B. This is not to be shown to anyone who is in the habit of bursting blood-vessels." So far Wogg. But, come, here is Charlotte Brontë again. "Jane Eyre's School" is a pleasant paper, evidently authentic, about Cowan Bridge. All that is needful to be said about the matter is that Charlotte had a perfect right to use her own experience as raw material and to colour it as she pleased. Argal—every scrap of this discussion, from first to last, might have been spared. No human being had the least right to presume that when she was writing a novel she was making a history. But if the question must be discussed upon the assumption that she was, I have to remark that we shall not take, against Charlotte's testimony, the testimony of anybody with less vision and less imagination. If, for example (which I see no atom of reason to assume), Mr. Brocklehurst was really *calqué* upon Mr. Blank, I, for one, shall persist in believing, upon Charlotte's authority, that Mr. Blank was like Mr. Brocklehurst; because I would rather believe her than twenty million ordinary people. Why? Because she had eyes; and the twenty million blind have only—. Well, Sir, I once saw an advertisement which wound up thus:—"N.B. No persons need apply for this situation who have boiled gooseberries in their heads instead of eyes."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A "new comedietta" called "Mary Jones," was produced with some success at the QUEEN'S THEATRE last Monday. It is the only dramatic production that I have to choose this week. Although called a "new comedietta," it is a very bold translation of an ancient French piece, an adaptation of which, under the title of

"Susan Smith," was produced at the Princess's Theatre some years since. The plot is wholly impossible. A young lady, the daughter of a millionaire stockbroker, feeling anxious to be loved for herself alone, persuades her father to consent to assume the name of Jones, and in the character of a poor Treasury clerk, to travel with his daughter until someone is found who is prepared to marry her in her supposed penniless condition. An eligible suitor, a Mr. Hodson, is supposed to be staying at the country inn in which the action of the piece takes place, and the young lady and her father lay a desperate siege to Mr. Trevor under the presumption that he is Mr. Hodson. Mr. Trevor is only a penniless art student, but the young lady is so charmed with his frank behaviour in roundly abusing her sketches, that she immediately falls in love with him, and eventually, I suppose, marries him. I do not at all vouch for the accuracy of my digest of the plot, which is in parts very foggy. The piece has little in the way of clever dialogue to recommend it, and it is twice as long as it needs to be. Miss Pauline Markham plays the young lady, and looks quite pretty enough for the part. Mr. Wyndham is a gentlemanly representative of the young artist; and Mr. Stephens, as the old man, is, of course, excellent. "Oliver Twist" is, I believe, in rehearsal at this theatre. I understand that its performance has been prohibited by the Lord Chamberlain—a spasmodic vindication, I suppose, of his public utility. If it is wrong to play a piece in which pickpockets are introduced, for fear the virtuous portion of the audience should become demoralised on the spot, and incontinently begin picking pockets from the sheer force of the example that is set them, *à fortiori*, a piece with a murder in it should be prohibited, lest the respectable occupants of the pit and gallery should be instantaneously converted into a gang of cut-throats and poisoners.

Mr. Burnand has a burlesque version of Hervé's "Oïl Crâve" in rehearsal at the OLYMPIC. Mr. Clarke plays the part in which M. Milner achieved so great a success in Paris.

The Easter piece at the STRAND is a burlesque by Mr. W. Brough, called, I believe, "The Field of the Cloth of Gold."

Mr. Burnand's version of the famous "Biche au Bois," called "The White Fawn," will be produced at the NEW HOLBORN THEATRE, which opens on Easter Monday, under Miss Fanny Joseph's management.

A SAD CASE OF SUICIDE.—An inquest was held on Monday respecting the death of William Clarke, aged forty-nine, who committed suicide by shooting himself at the Cannon-street station. The evidence given showed that the deceased, who was a clerk in the Custom House, had been in pecuniary difficulties. He was one of the committee of the Argus Club, and had signed a bill for £300, and the person who had received the money had embezzled it. The club was breaking up, and the deceased thought that he would have to pay the whole of the money; and this circumstance seems to have considerably affected his mind. Some person in connection with the club had served him with a writ, and this increased his excitement, although it appeared that the writ was served as a joke. The jury returned a verdict of "temporary insanity."

DESPERATE BRIGAND.—The capture of a redoubtable Spanish brigand, known under the name of Framusret, has been effected near Valencia, in a singular manner and under painful circumstances. He had escaped from prison in 1865, but his person was well known in the neighbouring districts. Some days since he paid a visit to his sister at Alboraya, and at eleven at night he encountered on the road the Alcade of the commune. The latter recognised and endeavoured to seize him, but the man took to flight. On entering the village, he called to the watchman of the night and asked to be conducted to the Alcade. The latter was in a café, at the door of which they knocked. The proprietor opened, and, the moment he appeared, Framusret, thinking it was the Alcade, fired at him, one ball wounding the unfortunate man mortally, and the other narrowly missing his wife. The assassin was then seized.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BRAND, M.P.—Last Saturday night one of the most interesting political dinners held in London for many years was given in Willis's Rooms, where 237 gentlemen, members of the Liberal party, and mostly members of the House of Commons, met to present a testimonial to the Right Hon. H. B. W. Brand, in recognition of nine years of service as "Whip" of the party. The right hon. gentleman was obliged to retire from his office in consequence of failing health, and the testimonial movement was at once commenced. Over 300 subscribers were soon registered, and the presentation would have been made last year but for Mr. Brand's absence from the country. The banquet was a very brilliant one. Mr. Gladstone presided, and upon entering the room, and whenever he had occasion to present himself afterwards experienced an enthusiastic reception that was unmistakably marked. The testimonial was placed in the centre of the room, hedged in by banks of flowers. It is an oblong plateau of silver, 5 ft. long, with semicircular ends, in the style of Queen Anne, and with a rich entablature composed of circular pedestal, supporting a figure of the Queen in her state robes and bearing the insignia of Royalty. The base of the pedestal is ornamented with medallions of members of the Liberal party from the days of the Commonwealth downwards. In addition to this fine piece of workmanship, worth about 800 guineas, the testimonial includes a pair of elegant seven-light silver candelabra. The inscription upon the pedestal of the plateau, written, it was said, by Mr. Gladstone, is this:—"Henrico Brand, exstante una inter adversa, inter prospic, ix. annorum laboribus, memores opere gnativer, comitem amantem reddite D.D. CCCLXXXVII, e dom. Comm. Mag. Brit. et Hibern. MDCCCLXXXVIII."

TORY TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIGHT.—Mr. Bright is a man of a very noble type; he is the natural successor of Charles Fox; he is the great Parliamentary representative of the populace. It is fortunate for England to possess a politician of this order, of such a mould, that time moderates his extreme opinions without diminishing his energy or dimming the splendour of his eloquence. May we always have such a tribune of the people. However, it is for our design to deal with Mr. Bright's arguments. He advanced nothing new. What he did—and for it we heartily thank him—was to give the debate a healthier tone by his protest against faction. Mr. Bright's opinions are extreme, but his motives are not sordid. He has no hunger for office. Indeed, though he has marvellously matured in statesmanship within even a few months, we doubt whether he would be wise to take office if it were offered him. He may, of course, have latent powers of administration; the probability is, indeed, in his favour. But he can certainly do better service in that corner seat below the gangway, where one naturally looks, on entering the House, to find his massive head and bright, watchful eye. He has a Ministerial function of his own. He is the *vox populi*. His sonorous tones scare the hobgoblins of politics. Often wrong, he is always honest and straightforward; often humorous in his attacks on opponents, he is always temperate, and never spiteful. He represents the best and manliest characteristics of the stalwart Saxon. He hits hard, but he never hits foul. He is for fair play and no favour. He is like Fox, as we have said, but with a finer personal character; he is like Cobbett in some respects, but without any touch of Cobbett's vulgarity. He is not only respected, but liked, by his strongest political opponents, and is on all hands recognised as a typical tribune of the people.—*Globe*.

MEAT SUPPLY.—The Veterinary Department of the Privy Council has compiled a series of returns, showing the past and present supply of live and dead meat to the United Kingdom. The largest importation of animals for food was in the year 1865, when there arrived 283,271 cattle, 914,170 sheep and lambs, and 132,909 swine. Twenty years before, in 1845, when there was an import duty on them, the numbers were no more than 16,813 cattle, 15,937 sheep and lambs, and 1590 swine. The cattle plague came in 1865, and the import declined; in 1866 it was 237,707 cattle, 790,880 sheep and lambs, 73,865 swine; and in 1867, 178,620 cattle, 534,788 sheep and lambs, and 49,175 swine. But even these last are numbers that were never attained before 1864. Of the cattle imported in 1867, 65,393 came from Germany, 41,297 from Denmark, 24,508 from Holland, and these constitute more than two thirds of the whole importation. The effect of the cattle plague was shown chiefly in the import from Holland, from which country we received 146,021 cattle in 1864, and only 24,508 in 1867. The import of cattle from Spain advanced from 849 in 1866 to 13,816 in 1867. The sheep and lambs come now chiefly from Germany, Holland, and Belgium, which, in fact, supply more than nine tenths of the whole importation; and in 1867 three fourths of the swine were from Holland. Of the cattle imported into the United Kingdom in 1867 70 per cent were imported into London; of the sheep and lambs, 75 per cent; of the swine, 58 per cent. The yearly average of cattle brought into the Metropolitan Cattle Market in the period 1861-4 was 843,630, and in the three years 1865-7, 317,059; of sheep and lambs, 1,509,524 in the former period, and 1,516,697 in the latter; and of swine, 29,727 and 30,096 respectively. Of the cattle brought into the Metropolitan Cattle Market in 1867 166,309 were English and 121,330 (42 per cent) foreign; of the sheep and lambs 1,000,120 were English and 420,730 (28 per cent) foreign; of the swine, 23,470 were English, and 4196 (15 per cent) foreign. In the first eleven months of the year 1867 the Great Northern Railway Company brought into the metropolis from the provinces upon an average 20,000 tons of fresh meat per month; the London and North-Western 1461 tons; the Great Eastern, 1007 tons; the Great Western, 542 tons; the South-Western, 416 tons; the Midland (the whole year), 362 tons; the South-Eastern, 68 tons; the Brighton, 30 tons; the Chatham, 8 tons; the London and Edinburgh Shipping Company, 51 tons; and the Newcastle Steam Company, 12 tons. This last company carried the meat, upon an average, 300 miles; the South-Western Railway, 180 miles; the Great Western, 108 miles.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.—A "new comedietta" called "Mary Jones," was produced with some success at the QUEEN'S THEATRE last Monday. It is the only dramatic production that I have to choose this week. Although called a "new comedietta," it is a very bold translation of an ancient French piece, an adaptation of which, under the title of

ABYSSINIAN NAMES.

(Berlin Correspondent of the "Times.")

A NEW set of geographical names having been forced upon us by the Abyssinian expedition, some of your readers may like to learn the meaning of those strange and seemingly barbarous sounds. The Abyssinians, I need scarcely premise, although settled on the outskirts of the negro world, come from the great Shemite race, and speak a language closely related to Hebrew and Arabic. The old Abyssinian idiom, which marks a time of comparative culture, including an extensive ecclesiastical literature, was the *Ab* hippoc; the modern tongue has branched out into various dialects, slightly differing from the parent stock, the principal of which are the *Tigré* and the *Hamara*. In the old as well as the new language, the Shemite form of speech, in many respects, seems to have preserved its original features better than in Hebrew, Arabic, &c. In any nation unchangedness of language is a sign of an inert mind.

The etymological remarks inserted in some of the following passages are based upon Shemitic rather than exclusively Abyssinian roots. This liberty, if such it can be called, is justified by the elementary state of Abyssinian philology, and the circumstance that the Abyssinian alphabet, notwithstanding its 209 characters, sometimes fails to convey the sounds intended to be represented.

The expeditionary force, then, has disembarked in the land of the Gheez, or "wanderers," as the Abyssinians call themselves, from having, some thousands of years ago, left their ancient home in Africa and emigrated to the opposite continent. In the word Gheez the Hebrew student will easily recognise the noun *ger*, "a stranger," from the root *ges*, "to discover."

The country is nominally governed by an Emperor, styled "Negos," or "Leader," the title given to David in the Old Testament. The Hebrew form of the word is *nogit*, from *negel*, "visibly present"—i.e., a man looked up to by others.

In the fulfilment of his imperial duties this pre-eminent Prince is supposed to be assisted, though in reality impeded, by other chieftains, of whom Washum Gobazie, Kasai, and Menelik have hitherto come in contact with the expeditionary force. "Wagshum" means the "Prince of the Circle," or district, and his political office includes another of a sacerdotal nature, he also assumes the title of "Gobazie," or "guardian." Kasai is probably equivalent to "circumcised." Menelik, a composite formed of *men* and *ilek*, seems to denote the man who goes in front, who advances, from *hulach*, "to go."

Of the swarthy diplomats employed by those illustrious personages Aminich, Kasai's Envoy to the Viceroy of Egypt, rejoices in the appellation of "trustworthy," from *aman*—"true." Aman is the same as the responsive *amen* of our Church. Gabroo the man Kasai sent to look at the English barbarians when they made their first appearance in Annesley Bay, was peculiarly fitted for so strange and overpowering a sight. He is the "strong," the "manly" one, if his parents, who gave him that cognomen, can be trusted. The root from which this proud appellation is derived occurs also in the Indo-Germanic languages, wherein it has begot a numerous progeny, very dissimilar in rank and standing. To quote only some of these unequal brethren, the English "robber," the Greek "harpy," and probably also the German "graf" originally "chieftain," now "count," are near relatives of the Abyssinian Gabroo. I should not like to express myself so positively concerning the name of Murcha Worki, Kasai's other representative at Annesley. There is, indeed, no doubt that this shining dignitary takes his name from the moon; but what sort of moon may be designated by the epithet added to Worki I dare not decide. Perhaps he is a "swift moon."

Having thus gone through the *dramatis personae*, we proceed to inspect the locality. When toiling up the Koomaley Pass we notice—at least, I hope we do, though, if we do not, it is certain somebody did a thousand years ago—the Koomaley tree, which christened this long and devious gorge. Like this, most other geographical names in that primitive region are taken from the natural features of the soil, but few pointing to the deeds of men. Zullah means "rock" (near kin to the Latin *ilex*, "the pebble"). Sooroo is "torrent" (Hebrew, *Sarah*, "to spread," "to spray"). Rara Guddy is the "chasm" of Rara, whoever this individual may have been. The word Guddy is second cousin to the name of the Biblical hero of Gideon, yclept "the cleaver," from having cut in twain the statue of Baal. Ati Gerat in English corresponds to "under the acacias." Undull "flowing" (Hebrew root, *nosal*) points to the celebrated well of the place, an interpretation confirmed by its second name, Maim "water." Adna, the capital of Prince Kasai, probably is correctly explained "permanent residence, place of meeting." Goon-goon is the cry and onomatopoeic name of the species of hawk abounding in that locality, and known under the same euphonious denomination.

The names of some of the villages remind one of past events. Events in Abyssinia means an alternation of war and armistice, so this class of names pretty exclusively refers to either the one or the other.

Debra Dammo, where the meeting with Kasai took place, is "the village of blood," or "bloodthorpe," *debra* being in meaning and etymological substance identical with the English "thorp," and *Dam* equally so with the Hebrew word for "blood." At Sene "concord, peace," was restored some time or other; at Antalo "impatience" or "mutiny" reappeared (Hebrew root *tal*, "to bear, submit").

Magdala, in its very designation as "tower," "fortress," seems to deserve the honour of becoming the strategical object of the most remarkable war Abyssinia has ever seen. Its original significance is "he who makes strong" (root, *gadal*=English "great"), which, in the metaphorical language of the East, is applied to such unpoetic things as parapets and redoubts.

Tacazie is the common term for river, but emphatically employed

to designate the largest stream in the country. It is probably an African word, adopted by the Semitic immigrants from the aborigines.

Mai Tsade means "white water"—i.e., rain-water; Mount Savarya, the Hill of the Neck; Mount Savav, the Hill of the Column.

LOCAL TAXATION.—A return, moved for in the House of Commons by Sir Michael Hicks Beach, has lately been published, which includes particulars as to the annual value of property in England and Wales charged under the different schedules to property

**THE PUTTLACHTHAL AND CASTLE OF POTENSTEIN,
BAVARIA.**

The Puttlach Valley is one of the most charming bits of scenery to be found in Europe. The constant change in form and colour is surprising, one spot presenting a most sterile appearance, with scarcely a tree to be seen, everywhere surrounded with craggy, cleft rocks, brown earth and sunburnt vegetation; then suddenly changing into a perfect paradise of the most luxuriant vegetation, with beeches, firs, ferns, and innumerable climbing plants. The old houses lie between the rocks, the Castle of Pottenstein crowns the heights, and the meandering Puttlach finds its level at the base of all; while a

wreath of barren rocks inclose the little valley so rich in beauty on every side.

Pottenstein owes its name to the Pfalzgraf Botho, of Bavaria, who, in the twelfth century, possessed the castle, which later, during the wars with Sweden, got sadly knocked about; since when the greater part has had to be taken down.

THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA.

The attention of the French Government is just now very painfully directed to that colony which has recently added to the miseries of

small and partial insurrections in widely-separated districts the failure of its food supplies and the famine of its native inhabitants. The details of the horrible sufferings of the Arab population have stirred up so much feeling in France that an outcry has been made against the government of the colony, and, in fact, against the excessive centralisation which characterises the French colonial government in general. There can be no doubt that this system has been pernicious enough in crippling the natural resources of the country; but it may be doubted whether, under any other kind of rule, the results which have followed the series of awful calamities recently experienced in Algeria could have been greatly mitigated. They certainly could not have been averted. A speech of Marshal



THE PUTTLACH VALLEY AND CASTLE OF POTENSTEIN, BAVARIA.

M'Mahon, Duke of Magenta, recently delivered in the Senate, has, at all events, thrown some light on the condition of Algeria, partial though it may have been. For the Marshal spent many years of his life in the colony, and is well acquainted with the place of which he is Governor-General. What he was most anxious to prove was the vitality of the colony, in opposition to those who have so often declared that all the efforts of France went for nothing—that its colonisation is a complete failure; a perpetual struggle without useful results; a gulf in which the treasures of the mother country have been flung; and the grave of her armies. Marshal M'Mahon proved the accuracy of his statements, and refuted these assertions by reference to statistical documents shortly to be published; and his conclusion seemed to point to the fact that, taking the period from 1830, the expenditure in Algeria has been well worth while, and that the 60,000,000f. she has cost have been well compensated for.

As regards the loss in men since the conquest and occupation of

Algeria, the Marshal maintains that it has been greatly exaggerated, and that Algeria should not be considered as a cause of weakness to the army, but rather the contrary, as to the training the soldiers have gone through in that country is principally owing to the success they have attained in other fields.

As a comment on this conclusion we present our readers with an illustration from a sketch made during the campaign which followed the last insurrection in the south—a sketch of the flying column of Geryville, under the command of Colonel Colonna, just after the combat at Kherder, when they suddenly found themselves opposed, not to Arabs, but to one of those terrible hurricanes against which man and beast find it so difficult to contend in the desert.

In that burning southern region the prospect of the desert is in itself awfully depressing: a great undulating tract of shifting sand, and nothing else; no landmark except the distant Atlas range on the east and west, or a solitary "hermit"

palm-tree, stunted and withered in the scorching soil. Burning heat, sand up to the ankles, and a heavy march after a sharp skirmish, are not trifles; but add to these a sudden overwhelming whirlwind of sand, a rushing hurricane against which neither man nor horse can make a yard of headway, and you have some little idea of what is experienced in ordinary times; but the present occasion added something to all this in a perfect tempest of rain and fine sleet, beneath which the desert seemed to heave in an oceanic chaos. At night the terrors of the place increased, and it seemed as though the whole troop would be buried there, or rather would leave their skeletons there to bleach in the sun beside those of their late assailants, who were but a short distance off watching for a chance of renewing their attempts at a surprise. The insurrection was, however, virtually at an end, for the slain were already numerous, men and camels lying amidst the tossing sand and the whirl of rain and snow.

THE FUNERAL OF DANIEL MANIN AT VENICE.

On the twentieth anniversary of the expulsion of the Austrians from Venice (March 22, 1848), a date which marks the commencement of one of the brightest episodes of the Italian struggle for national existence, the remains of the great and good Daniel Manin, Dictator of the Venetian Republic, were restored to the city of his birth and the theatre of his undying glory. The coffin had been deposited in a *chapelle ardente* at Mestre, near Venice, on the evening of the 20th, and at one o'clock next day Manin's ashes arrived at the railway station, escorted by the National Guard of Venice. At six o'clock the deputation appointed to take charge of his mortal remains arrived at the station. It was composed thus:—1, The representatives of the Italian Government, of the Senate, and of the Deputies; 2, the commission which had been appointed to go to France and there receive the coffins of Manin and of his mother and sister; 3, the President of the Court of Appeal; 4, the General commanding the town and the fortress; 5, the president and the members of the provincial commission; 6, the Municipal Junta and the Commander of the National Guard; 7, the members of the Provisional Government of 1848-9; 8, the members of the Assemblies of 1848-9. At a few minutes after seven the three coffins were placed on board the funeral gondola, accompanied by the above-mentioned deputation. The clergy, the members of the Provisional Government, the coffin-bearers, and six drummers dolefully imitating the knell on their drums muffled with black crape, occupied the bow of the gondola, while the other members of the deputation piously surrounded the coffins. An eye-witness, describing the ceremony, says:—"At seven o'clock, just as darkness had set in, the ceremony began. The coffin was borne by sailors of the Italian fleet, and, being carried up the steps, was deposited in the centre of the galley. Four captains with drawn swords stood at each corner of the catafalque, while soldiers of the National Guard, stationed on the lower steps, presented arms. The funeral galley then went majestically forward, being propelled by sixty rowers. Notwithstanding the sounds of solemn music, the general appearance was that of a fairy scene elaborately got up on the tranquil lake. Three or four hundred gondolas, radiant with various coloured lights, accompanied the new *Bucintaur*, and when the squadron entered the Rialto, and then the Grand Canal, the brilliant illumination of the palace, mingling with the reflection on the waters, occasioned by the numerous gondolas, presented a spectacle which it is impossible to describe. Along the quays, the bridges, the promenades, and at the windows of the palaces, were immense crowds of observers. At the festooned balconies were groups of women, who appeared to have started from the canvas of *Paul Veronese*. The men of the working classes clambered up on every available object which promised a view of the remarkable scene. For a whole hour the spectators were able to enjoy it, commencing at the *Dario* Palace, going on to the Palaces of *Manzoni* and *Giustiani*, and appearing to finish at that of *Vandramin Calergé*, belonging to the *Duchess de Berri*. About nine o'clock was seen on one hand *Santa Maria della Salute*, upon which the dazzling lights reflected brilliantly, while *San Giorgio* was clearly definable in the shade; and on the other hand the Royal palace, the *Lion of St. Mark*, and the Palace of the *Doges*, some of the most marvellous of



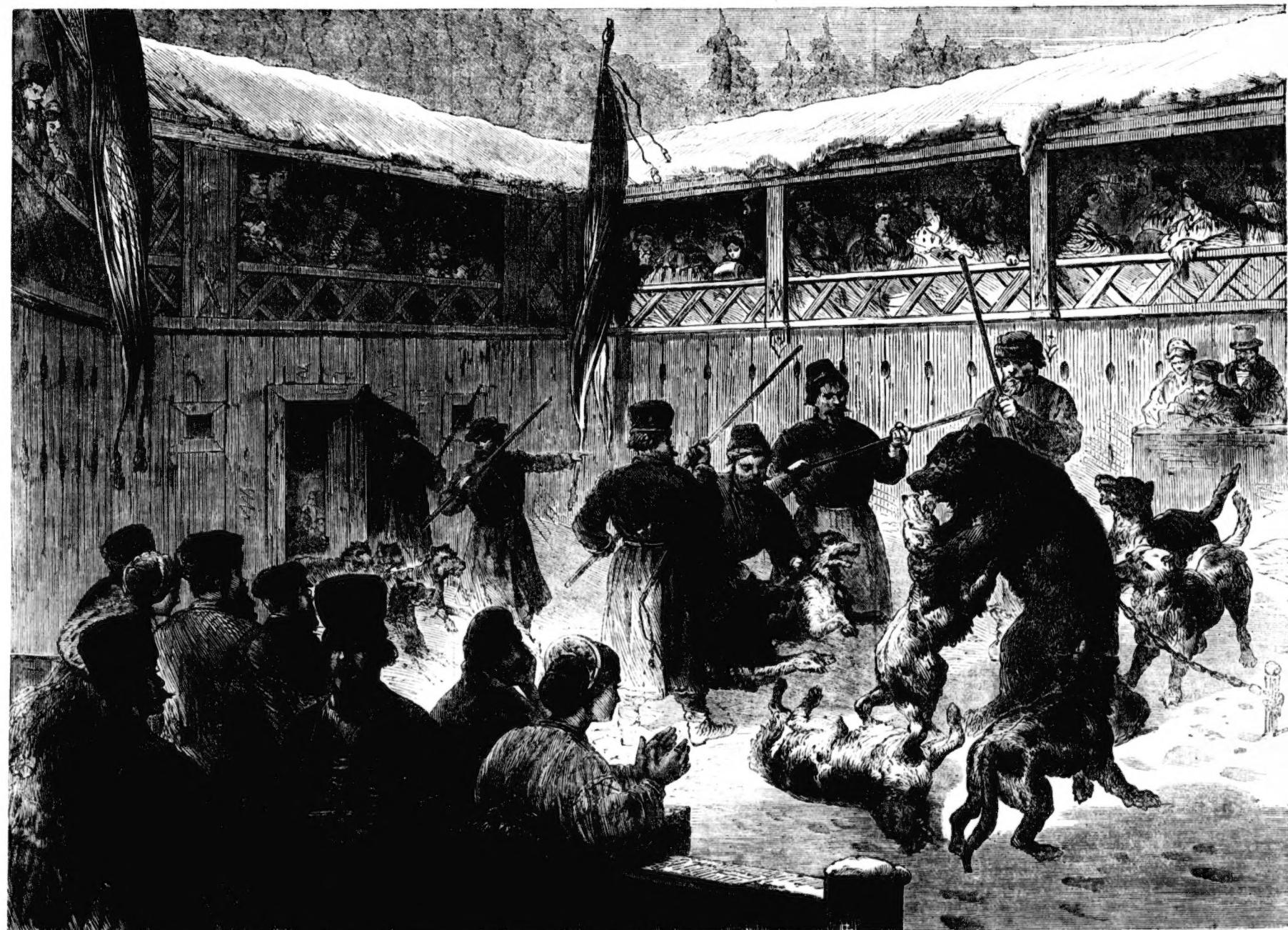
THE LATE DANIEL MANIN.

human constructions. Here was the crowning display, amidst so much that was admirable, the eccentric floods of light having an indescribably beautiful effect upon the noble architecture around. The piazza was densely crowded, and from this quarter proceeded vociferous shouts and hurrahs. The quay of the *Eclavons* was similarly invaded, and here the convoy stopped at ten o'clock in the evening, and the coffin was carried to the Church of *St. Zacharia*. The grandeur of the funeral ceremony was most imposing. The Venetians, accustomed to pomp and magnificence of this description almost unknown to the rest of Europe, declared that every exertion had been made and everything devised calculated to impress the mind of the people for ever with the recollection of the triumphal entry of the body of Manin into Venice. The several forms of the ceremony having been gone through, the body was taken to the last

station, at the Church of *St. Mark*, where in the porch had been constructed a sarcophagus in porphyry, supported by two lions, the whole being of beautiful execution. It is here that the patriot's remains finally repose in their glory in front of that Square of *St. Mark* where Manin inflamed his fellow-citizens with the love of country and laid a foundations for the deliverance of Venice."

The life and labours of Daniel Manin are, no doubt, familiar to many readers; but, as a generation has grown up since his active political career was closed, it may not be amiss to reproduce the leading incidents as we find them recorded in "Beeton's Biographical Dictionary":—"The son of a distinguished advocate, young Manin was educated for the profession of the law. About 1825 he married and went to reside at Mestre, a small town near Venice. There he practised as an advocate and occupied his leisure with historical studies, taking no part in the discussions or proceedings of the secret societies then existing in Italy, but hating Austrian rule and hoping for the independence of Venice with the whole force of his nature. That such a man should come into collision with the Austrian Government was perfectly natural; and, at the beginning of 1848, he was imprisoned for the liberal opinions expressed by him as advocate during several trials. A few months later the Austrians were driven from Milan; the insurrection quickly spread throughout the Italian peninsula, and at Venice, Count Zichy, the Austrian governor, was forced to surrender. Manin here stepped forth, and exhorted his countrymen to act like men who were worthy of freedom. He organised a government, at the head of which he was placed, with Tomaseo; formed a committee of defence, created ten battalions of *garde mobile*, and improvised a corps of artillery. When Charles Albert took the field against the Austrians, in the name of Italy, the Venetians agreed to a fusion with Lombardy and Piedmont, under the name of the Kingdom of Northern Italy. The defeat of the Piedmontese, however, destroyed that compact, and left Venice to defend herself alone against Austria; thereupon a republic was proclaimed, Manin being named chief *triumvir*, and the military command confided to the Neapolitan General *Pepé*. Venice was besieged by the Austrians in August, 1848, but held out heroically until the end of the same month in the following year, and did not surrender before it had been subjected to a fearful bombardment. According to the terms of capitulation, Manin was permitted to go into exile, and thereupon retired to Paris, where he supported himself by giving lessons in Italian."

Manin was born in Venice in 1804, and died in Paris in 1857. To Manin, no less than to Cavour, belongs the honour of having been one of the fathers of Italian unity. A Republican, he saw that the Crown of Savoy was the anchor of national safety, and it was to his influence and example that Italy is indebted for that concentration of force which enabled her to carry out in 1859 and 1860 what, through her uncertainty of purpose and municipal distractions, she had been powerless to accomplish in 1848. Manin's domestic afflictions were great; he had witnessed once more the degradation of Venice, the death of the dawning freedom of Italy, and then lost his wife and his only daughter. He expired broken-hearted; but he never lost faith in the regeneration of Italy, and his last prayer was offered up for her deliverance and freedom. The noble Venetian was buried with wife and daughter in the vault of the famed artist Schefter. Italy some time ago claimed his ashes, and there was



BEAR-BAITING IN RUSSIA.

to have been a great ceremony at the opening of the tomb. The French authorities, however, fearing political excitement, caused the exhumation to take place privately. A Venetian deputation invited the political friends of Manin in France to attend the state funeral ceremony which has just taken place at Venice. In the midst of an important Session, the leaders of the Liberal party and friends of Italy in the Chambers could not absent themselves. The result was, MM. Jules Favre, Jules Simon, M. Guérard, Lemon Havan, and other friends, deputed MM. Herold and Legouvé to represent the invited French press.

RUSSIAN BEAR-BAITING.

Now that Russia is advancing in intelligence, and her people may hope to derive some advantages from education, the sport of which we publish an Engraving will probably be altogether discontinued. Now that we are ourselves altogether beyond reproach; and in a firmly-contested argument, it would be difficult to make much distinction between the hunting of the timid hare and the baiting of the big, fierce monster, who, though he is chained to a stake, is frequently more than a match for the dogs who are brought against him. Curiously enough, with such enormous resources in their woods and fields the Russians are not much addicted to field sports. They gain excitement at the gaming-table, and find amusement in anything which will serve to found a gambling chance upon; but, as a rule, they have no passion for the chase. This may account for bear-baiting having survived so long, and for the presence in the galleries of the quadrangle where Bruin is to meet his antagonists of ladies as well as gentlemen, who bet upon the result, and watch the conflict with no little anxiety. Our Illustration may shortly be only a recollection of an amusement which modern Russia has forbidden as a relic of barbarism unfitted for an era of progress in popular freedom and enlightenment.

WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, GREAT ORMOND-STREET.—The report of this institution, now in its fifteenth year of existence, has just been issued. It is signed by the Principal of the college, the Rev. F. D. Maurice, and shows the progress of the institution from its establishment, and its present position. Advertising to the great want of room, which has hitherto hampered the work for which the college was designed, the report states:—"The want of rooms, still more the great confinement of those used for the drawing classes, has been very injurious to the college. But we preferred the inconvenience and the risk of offending friendly contributors to any hasty attempt at building with insufficient funds. When, however, we had more than £1050 in hand, and a promise of about £200 more, it seemed reasonable to take some steps. A committee was appointed to obtain plans and to consider them. They reported in favour of a design by Mr. Webb, which provides for the erection of a building, comprising (1) six class-rooms, of various sizes for the accommodation of the art classes, the physical science classes, &c.; (2) a museum; (3) a hall for lectures and meetings, capable of seating 300 persons. Mr. Webb has worked out the specifications and plans for this building, and has advised the council that its probable cost will be from £2,000 to £3,000, according as certain minor portions of the plan are omitted or included. This outlay will be for substantial work only, omitting all decorative features, and exclusive of the cost of furnishing the building. We need, therefore, some £1500 or £1800 more than we have got, and we are very anxious to collect this sum within the next few months, that another summer may not pass and leave us still crippled and hampered for want of space. A large part of the sum now in hand has come from the circle of our immediate friends, and the students have contributed according to their means. We think, therefore, that we may not unreasonably appeal for help to the liberality of others who take an interest in the work we are about."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P. in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a reward of £25 was granted to pay the expenses of the Caistor large life-boat, the Birmingham, in putting off during the gale of wind on the 8th ult., and after considerable difficulty bringing ashore the crew of fifteen men and a large ship's dog from the barque Sparkling Wave, of Sunderland, which had stranded, and afterwards became a total wreck on the South Scroby sand. The same life-boat was also instrumental, on the 28th ult., in saving the schooner Wave, of Boston, and her crew of four men. A reward of £22 was also voted to pay the expenses of the institution's life boat stationed at Penmoor, Anglesey, on going off during a gale of wind and rescuing eight of the crew of the brig Jabez, of Scarborough, which had stranded on the Dutchman's bank, off the Anglesea coast, on the 23rd ult. A reward of £18.13s. was likewise granted to pay the expenses of the life-boat at the Lizard, in going off during a fresh breeze from N.N.E. on the night of the 26th ult., and bringing ashore two men who were found on the foretopmast of the schooner Selina, of Swansea, which was totally wrecked on the Outer Stag rocks, near the Lizard. The master of the vessel and a boy were unhappily drowned before the arrival of the life-boat. The Wexford and Cahore life-boat had gone off on the 22nd ult., during a fresh gale of wind, and had, in conjunction with some steam-tugs, succeeded in getting off the ship Conway Castle, of Liverpool, from the Blackwater bank, upon which she had stranded. Rewards were also granted to the crews of the society's life-boats and to those of shore-boats for various services during recent gales. Payments amounting to £730 were also ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. It was reported that the Earl of Strafford had liberally offered to present to the institution a life-boat to be stationed on the Isle of Portland, if one could be shown to be needed there. A lady, through Captain Fishbourne, R.N., C.B., had expressed a wish to present to the institution, in memory of a deceased son, the new life-boat about to be placed at Broadstairs. It was also stated that Mr. Christopher Brown, of Settle, Yorkshire, had collected upwards of £800 for the institution, and it was decided to appropriate to him the new life-boat about to be sent to Penmon, Anglesea, and to name it the "Christopher Brown." During the past month new life-boats had been sent to Ross Links, Holy Island, Bull Bay, Anglesey, Penrith, Wales; and Stonehaven, N.B. A hearty reception had been given to the boats at those places. Martin Gray, Esq., merchant, of St. John's, Antigua, and Captain N. Marquand, of the barque Matchless, of Guernsey, had collected for the institution, in the Island of Antigua, £30. The Worshipful Company of Mercers had given an additional donation to the society of 50s. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats, on their recent visits to various life-boat stations of the society on the coast. The proceedings then terminated.

GOLD DISCOVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Herr Manch, the German traveller, who lately arrived in Natal, asserts that gold-fields, believed by him to be richer than those of California or Australia, exist in the interior. According to his statements the locality of this auriferous region is precisely identical with the description given by Dr. Livingstone in his first book of travels and the present discovery may be regarded as being the confirmation of rumours and the justification of convictions that have prevailed from the earliest times. Mr. Manch tells us that he has seen two gold-fields—the northern one being of indefinite extent, and lying much nearer the Zambesi than the other. This latter one is situated about 900 miles from Natal in a north-westerly direction, beyond and to the west of the limits of the Transvaal Republic. It is in the country formerly ruled by Sekhemo, a runaway chieftain, whose place is now filled by Machin under the suzerainty of Moekatse. As the former chief can muster 10,000 warriors and the latter 40,000, it is evident that the chief obstacle in the way of any gold-working movement rests in them. The country itself is tolerably healthy and well watered. The geological character of the district is represented by metamorphic rocks, with slate, and the other usual indications of auriferous wealth. Vegetation is not luxuriant. In the immediate neighbourhood of the gold-field, which Mr. Manch estimates to cover a tract of twenty miles broad and sixty miles long, there are not many natives. When the explorer saw the white reefs of auriferous quartz glistening in the sun, as they cropped out here and there, he was startled by the conception of the wealth which he firmly believes those reefs to contain. Thousands of holes, some ten feet deep, give evidence of old native workings, and bear out Dr. Livingstone's remark about the gold-washings carried on in woolen bowls by the Kaffirs in times past. Mr. Manch brings with him about twenty specimens. Those that are auriferous consist of pale quartz, containing minute particles of pure gold. Several of them are of iron and lead ores, and some of them come from the Transvaal Republic. It is difficult as yet to say what the upshot of these disclosures will be. Mr. Manch explored the country in question in company with Mr. Hartley, an old and well-known elephant hunter; and, in justice to that gentleman's exertions and services, he considers he is bound to require some recompence in his behalf. Mr. Manch himself has no interest in the discovery, he says, beyond the scientific distinction it may bring him. He is accredited and commissioned by the Geographical Society of Göttingen to do a certain work—namely, to traverse Africa westward of the lake from Natal to the Mediterranean—and to the accomplishment of that grand purpose he has devoted his life for the next few years. It remains to be seen whether the exact situation of the gold-fields will become generally known by means of the information accorded on payment of the required reward, or by means of further private adventures. Our impression is that as the locality of the gold-fields is known already to one or two Englishmen resident in the Transvaal Republic, the discovery will be developed in the first instance by means of private expeditions. It cannot be denied that considerable risk will attend such movements, but the prize to be won offers an overpowering inducement to the adventurous spirits abounding amid the wild scenes of the interior.—"Natal Mercury," Feb. 10.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA (Drury Lane) opened, last Saturday, with a remarkably fine performance of "Lucrèzia Borgia." Mdlle. Titien took the part of the heroine, Mdlle. Trebelli-Bettini that of Maffeo Orsini, Mr. Santley that of the Duke. Signor Fraschini, a tenor who was known in London no less than twenty-one years ago, and who of late years has sung with great success at the Théâtre Italien of Paris, appeared as Gennaro, and, thanks to his excellent method and style, produced a most favourable impression. The theatre has been redecorated throughout, and with admirable taste. The whole of the pit has been turned into stalls, and a new row of boxes has been constructed on the first tier. To-night Mdlle. Clara Louise Kellogg makes her first appearance for the season in "La Traviata."

Mdlle. Fricci, though not hitherto recognised as an artist of the very highest attainments, is improving year by year; and we can quite understand the success which, according to Mr. Gye's prospectus, she has recently gained in Italy. There is something sympathetic about her talent; and whether she excites the highest admiration or not, she never fails to please. If anything were wanting to prove her value as one of the leading members of Mr. Gye's company, her performance on Tuesday night did all that was required. Mdlle. Fricci sang the solo with remarkable fluency and expression, but it was, above all, in the trio which closes the first act that her vocal power was displayed. This trio, in which, as everyone knows, Pollio, Norma, and Adalgisa are the acting and conflicting personages, was admirably rendered and loudly encored. The melodious duets were well sung, both by Mdlle. Fricci, the Norma, and Mdlle. Lemmens-Sherrington, the Adalgisa, of the evening. But it was, of course, in the last scene of all that Mdlle. Fricci's singing and acting produced their greatest effect. "Don Carlos," originally announced for the opening night, was performed on Thursday, with Mdlle. Fricci and M.M. Naudin, Petit, Capponi, and Graziani in their old parts; and Mdlle. Lemmens-Sherrington in the part taken last year by Mdlle. Pauline Lucca. "Rigoletto" is to be produced to-night (Saturday), when Signor Mario will appear, for the first time this season as the Duke of Mantua. The character of Gilda will be undertaken by a débutante, Mdlle. Vanzini; that of Maddalena by another débutante Mdlle. Mayer.

It appears from the published prospectus that Mr. Gye's company includes four of the greatest singers of the day, Mdlle. Adelina Patti, Mdlle. Pauline Lucca, Signor Graziani, and Signor Mario Patti. Mdlle. Pauline Lucca will appear for the first time in England as Elvira, in "I Puritani;" for the first time these three years as Ninetta, in "La Gazza Ladra;" and for the first time these four years as Maria in "La Figlia del Reggimento;" and as Diorah in the opera of that name. She will, moreover, sustain the principal characters in the two great operatic novelties of the season Verdi's "Giovanni d'Arco" and an Italian version of Rossini's "Siège de Corinthe," not to be confounded with "Maoetto Secondo," of which "Le Siège de Corinthe" is an amplification. It is somewhat remarkable that this admirable work, which, in one shape or another, has been so often played in Italy, France, and Germany, and which is one of the stock pieces at the Berlin Opera House, should never have been given in England, where Rossini's music was at no time lacked appreciators. It is promised for the end of June, "with new scenery, costumes, and appointments," and will be a most welcome production. The third operatic novelty announced by Mr. Gye is an Italian version of "Le Domino Noir." It appears that M. Aubert is now actively engaged in arranging his celebrated work for the Italian stage; and we are to expect its production soon after the arrival of Mdlle. Pauline Lucca, who will undertake the principal part. That the same success awaits this fascinating singer in the character of Angèle which she has already obtained in that of Zerlina ("Fra Diavolo") cannot be doubted. The cast of "Le Domino Noir," as given in Mr. Gye's prospectus, is admirable. The tenor part, which on the French stage is usually taken by a second tenor, is at the Royal Italian Opera assigned to Signor Mario. Mdlle. Lucca will reappear as Margherita in "Fanst," as Leonora in "La Favorita," as Cherubino in "Le Nozze di Figaro," and as the before-mentioned Zerlina in "Fra Diavolo." In a special paragraph devoted to this lady we are informed that "his Majesty the King of Prussia, at the special desire of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, accorded to Mdlle. Lucca, during the past winter permission for the first time to visit St. Petersburg," and that Mdlle. Lucca's engagement proved a most brilliant one and created an amount of enthusiasm but very rarely, if ever, accorded to an artist even in the Russian capital. It is, indeed, a noteworthy fact that the prima donna who was the main attraction of the winter season at the Italian Opera of St. Petersburg, and the prima donna who was the sole attraction of the winter season at the Royal Italian Opera of London, Signor Mario will be heard in many of those arts in which he is entirely without a rival (Faust; the Duke, in "Rigoletto"; Fernando, in "La Favorita," &c.) and will impersonate, for the first time, the hero in the new version of "The Siege of Corinth." Signor Graziani is not announced to appear in any new work; but we are to meet him for the first time as Don Giovanni, and as Peter the Great in "L'Étoile du Nord."

Mr. Arthur Chappell's series of Monday Popular Concerts came to an end this week. Mdlle. Arabella Goddard, Mdlle. Schumann, and Mr. Charles Hallé played each a solo, and gave a joint performance of Bach's concerto for three pianos. Herr Joachim was among the distinguished artists who took part in this remarkable concert, as was also Signor Piatti, who introduced a new "Lied" by Mendelssohn, for violoncello and piano. Mr. Benedict officiated as conductor.

We have received a letter from a lady who reminds us that we have not yet noticed her concert and calls upon us, peremptorily, to do so without further delay. We are enjoined not to neglect our manifest duty in the matter, seeing that tickets for the said concert were made use of either by ourselves or by our representative. We had hitherto been under the impression that the concert-tickets with which we are inundated during the season, were intended in the light of invitation. Nor do we understand why anyone should take it for granted, as Miss —— seems to do, that every concert noticed by us must of necessity be noticed favourably.

The Passion Week performance of "The Messiah" will be given in Monday next by the National Choral Society—conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin—at Exeter Hall. Miss Banks, Mdlle. Osborne Williams, Mr. Santley, &c., are among the principal singers. The band and chorus will number 700 performers. A few two-shilling tickets have been issued for the performance.

Messrs. Boosey and Co. have published Mr. Sullivan's *Contra-bands*, complete for voice and piano, at the moderate price of four shillings. This charming work, whose successful production at the St. George's Opera-house was recorded by us at the time, contains many pieces which are as well adapted for the drawing-room as for the stage. Indeed, the whole operetta is suited for amateur representation—always supposing the amateurs to possess the talent necessary for singing the music. Difficult music is entirely beyond them; but easy music is not always within their grasp. However, this piece, thanks to Mr. Burnand, is very amusing; it can be produced without any very elaborate scenery; and Mr. Sullivan's melodies are not too trying for the vocal powers of really accomplished amateurs.

RIOTS AT WIGAN.—The colliers in the employ of the Wigan Coal Company having struck for higher wages, the employers have procured the services of men from other districts. The unionists, finding themselves outmanoeuvred, assembled in large numbers on Saturday morning, armed with bludgeons, to prevent the "knobsticks" from descending the pit. The police were called in, and the difficulty was then surmounted; but the turnouts appear to have adopted a system of terrorism, breaking the windows of the houses of the new comers, and perpetrating other outrages. The aspect of affairs at last became so alarming that the military were telegraphed for from Manchester, and a detachment of the 68th Regiment was despatched by special train. It is hoped that their presence will be sufficient to secure peace.

OBITUARY.

THE EARL OF CARDIGAN.—James Thomas Brudenell, K.C.B., Earl of Cardigan, has added another instance to the almost proverbial rule that men of adventurous lives pass through many great dangers to perish by some small accident at last. At eleven o'clock last Saturday morning his Lordship died, at his country seat, Dene Park, Northamptonshire, of injuries received on the back of his head through a fall from his horse. Two children saw the animal rearing and plunging violently; and Lord Cardigan, though a skilful and courageous horseman, lost his seat and fell with much force to the ground. A labouring man assisted him to rise and supported him about half a mile along the road, till they met a carriage, into which the unfortunate nobleman was lifted. From that time he never spoke again. His Lordship was seventh Earl, inheriting the title from his father, who married a daughter of John Cooke, Esq., of Harefield Park. He was born in 1797; and entered the Army, in 1824, as Cornet of the 8th Hussars. By rapid steps he rose to be Lieutenant-Colonel, to which rank he was gazetted in 1830. While called by his courtesy title of Lord Brudenell he sat in the House of Commons from 1832 to 1837, in which latter year he succeeded to the Earldom. In February, 1840, the memorable trial of the Earl of Cardigan, in the House of Peers, for having wounded Captain Harvey Phipps Tuckett in a duel on Wimbledon common, raked into prominence several foregoing scandals, such as the "black bottle" affair at Brighton. The trial itself ended in an acquittal, but the public voice was less lenient than the verdict of Lord Cardigan's peers. However, later events gave the gallant Earl opportunities, of which he was not slow to avail himself, of winning popularity by sheer exercise of that most popular of qualities, manly daring. He was in 1848, highly complimented by the Commander-in-Chief, the late Duke of Wellington, on the discipline and efficiency of his corps; and on the proclamation of war with Russia and the opening of the Crimean campaign, he was appointed to command a cavalry brigade, having previously reached the rank of Major-General. Of his Lordship's part in the history of the Russian War there have been divers and opposite opinions; but, in the main, his countrymen have agreed in оaying him the full honours of heroism with regard to his conduct at the head of the famous charge of Balaclava. Soon after his return from the East he was created K.C.B., and was Inspector-General of Cavalry from February, 1855, to the end of March, 1860. He was appointed, in August, 1859, Colonel of the 5th Dragoon Guards; and in August, 1860, he was transferred to his old regiment as Colonel of the 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars. The Earl was disposed, by will, of his property in the following manner:—Legacies of £5000 to Viscount Curzon, M.P., and to Captain the Hon. John Vivian, M.P., his executors; £3000 to the Earl of Westmoreland; £10,000 to Miss Clement; £7000 to Mr. Hubert de Burgh; £100 a year to Mrs. Hubert de Burgh; £200 a year to Mr. Marcus Beresford; and £100 a year each to his late valet, butler, coachman, and gardener. These dispositions made, all Lord Cardigan's property is left absolutely to Lady Cardigan during her life, except the house in London and the yachting-villa at Cowes, and at her death to Robert, the fourth son of Lord Ernest Bruce, M.P., now in the Navy, and stationed at Jamaica. But at Lady Cardigan's death the property is to be placed in the hands of trustees for twenty-one years, in order to free it of debt, before it is handed over to Mr. Bruce and his heirs male. In default of issue the property is to go to whomsoever may be Earl of Cardigan, which must be the Marquis of Ailesbury of the day, the former title being merged in the latter.

CHRISTOPHER BENSON.—One who, forty years ago, was the most popular preacher in London has just passed away, at the good old age of fourscore. Christopher Benson was no common man, although his health was always indifferent, and for many years he laboured under total deafness. He became known by preaching a course of sermons at St. Mary's, Cambridge, which led to his appointment as the first Hulsean Lecturer. This brought him to the notice of the Earl of Liverpool, by whom he was successively promoted to the Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, the Mastership of the Temple, and a Canonry at Worcester; and it is known that he would have been raised to the Bench but for the abrupt termination of Lord Liverpool's career. In term time, when the Master preached the Temple Church was always thronged with the leading men of the day; and it was not till deafness made it painful to preach that Mr. Benson resigned the Mastership and retired to pass the rest of his life in the seclusion of the country. He was a diligent student, and had collected a large and valuable library at his house, near Ross. For many years he had been devoting himself to the study of Hebrew, and preparing a work to harmonise the conclusions of science about the Creation with the account in Scripture. Mr. Benson took a high position as a divine, and wrote several valuable works, which at the time had a large circulation. The great feature in his preaching was naturalness; without the least action, he impressed his congregation by throwing himself entirely into his subject.

MR. EDWARD JESSE.—We regret to announce the death, at Brighton, of Mr. Edward Jesse, the well-known naturalist. The deceased gentleman was son of the Rev. William Jesse, Vicar of Hutton, Cranswick, Yorkshire, and subsequently of Bewdley, Worcestershire, and was born in the former village in January, 1780. At eighteen years of age he entered the civil service as clerk in the St. Domingo Office. Mr. Jesse afterwards became private secretary to Lord Dartmouth, President of the Board of Control. He then received an office at Court, and was known as Gentleman of the Bedchamber. He also held in succession various other official positions—those of Controller of Copper Coinage, Commissioner of Hackney Carriages, and Deputy Manager-General of the Royal Parks and Palaces. In 1830, on the abolition of the offices he then held, Mr. Jesse retired on a pension, and devoted the remainder of his life to those scientific pursuits which have gained for him so honourable a reputation. It was not until he was considerably advanced in life that he attempted authorship in its most ambitious form. His "Anecdotes of Dogs" was published in 1846. This was followed in 1847 by "Favourite Haunts and Rural Studies." He also edited "Izaak Walton's Angler;" White's "Leicester," and Ritchie's "Windsor Castle." His daughter, Mrs. Houston, is also favourably known as a writer of travels and as a novelist. Mr. Jesse's pen has often been employed in the public press in vindication of the canine species, and he has left behind him a pleasant memory.

EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.—There are 21,000 deaf and dumb persons in this kingdom, and it is suggested by a warm advocate of their case that in any proposed scheme of national education they ought no longer to be neglected. Mr. Hammick, in 1862, pleaded that a portion of the large grant of public money already set apart for the purposes of education might well be bestowed in this direction. Mr. Hammick, in advocating their claims, now states that in France most of the schools for them are assisted by the State and are under the protection of the Minister of the Interior; and a law obtains there, as in Belgium, Austria, Prussia, and several other countries, making it compulsory to have every deaf and dumb child (if of sound intellect) educated at the public expense. In America, although education is perfectly voluntary, every possible encouragement is accorded to them by the Government, about 300,000 dollars, or £60,000, being liberally appropriated annually to the thirty-two schools for the deaf and dumb poor.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—Last Saturday a conference on the condition of the agricultural labourer was held in St. James's Hall. Many members of Parliament, and other public men of all shades of political opinion, attended. The points raised for consideration were: 1. What are the causes of the unsatisfactory condition of the agricultural labourer? 2. What are the means best calculated to improve that condition? 3. If by the formation of a society, then upon what plan should such society be constituted, and what steps taken to form it? The answer to the first question was, of course, ignorance and lowness of wages; to the second: the formation of societies, or rather unions, among the labourers, for the purpose of raising wages, and the establishment of a system of compulsory education for all children of the labouring class under thirteen years of age; and, to the third: by making the unions strictly protective and defensive, and not aggressive in character; and to raise a fund for preliminary expenses. Another resolution moved by Mr. Fawcett, M.P., and likewise adopted, was as follows:—"That in the opinion of this conference the condition of the agricultural labourers will continue to be depressed and unsatisfactory until their education is secured by compelling their children, under thirteen years of age, to attend school so many hours a week."

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